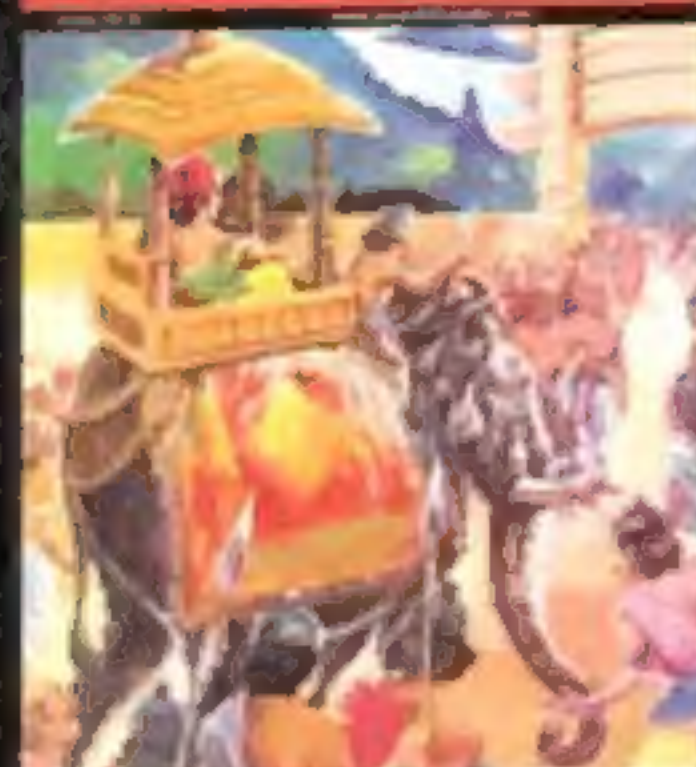


BIMBISARA

Dutiful son, doting father, capable general, wise ruler – Bimbisara had earned the right to grow old in peace; but his son had other plans for him. Through his darkest hours Bimbisara was sustained by the gentle teachings of his royal-born friend Gautama Buddha, who had renounced his own kingdom. Bimbisara, on the other hand, spent a lifetime building his kingdom of Magadha around present-day Bihar. We get a glimpse of the life and times of this great king, who lived nearly 2500 years ago, in the Buddhist and Jain literature of the period.

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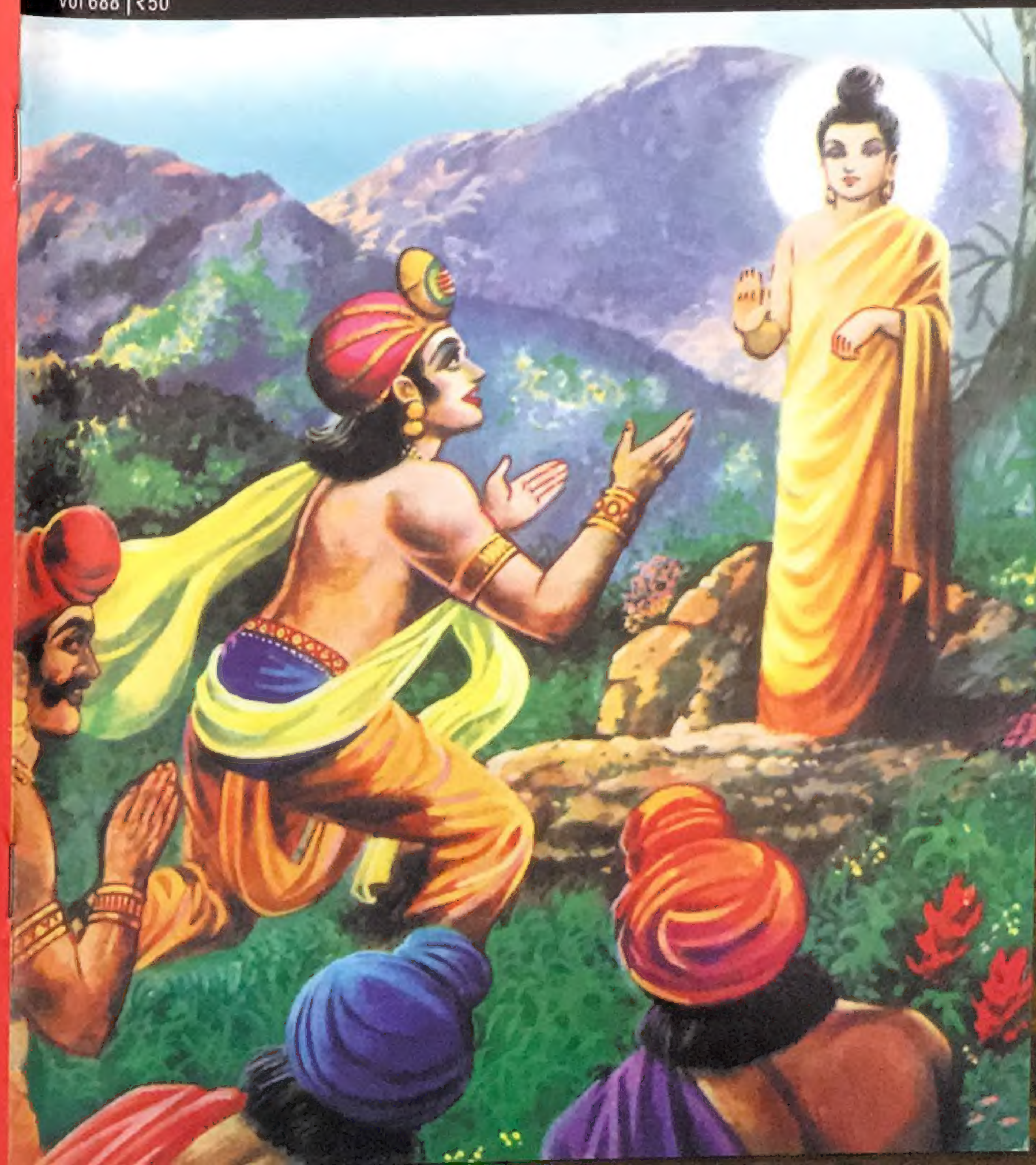
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BIMBISARA

MODEL KING OF MAGADHA

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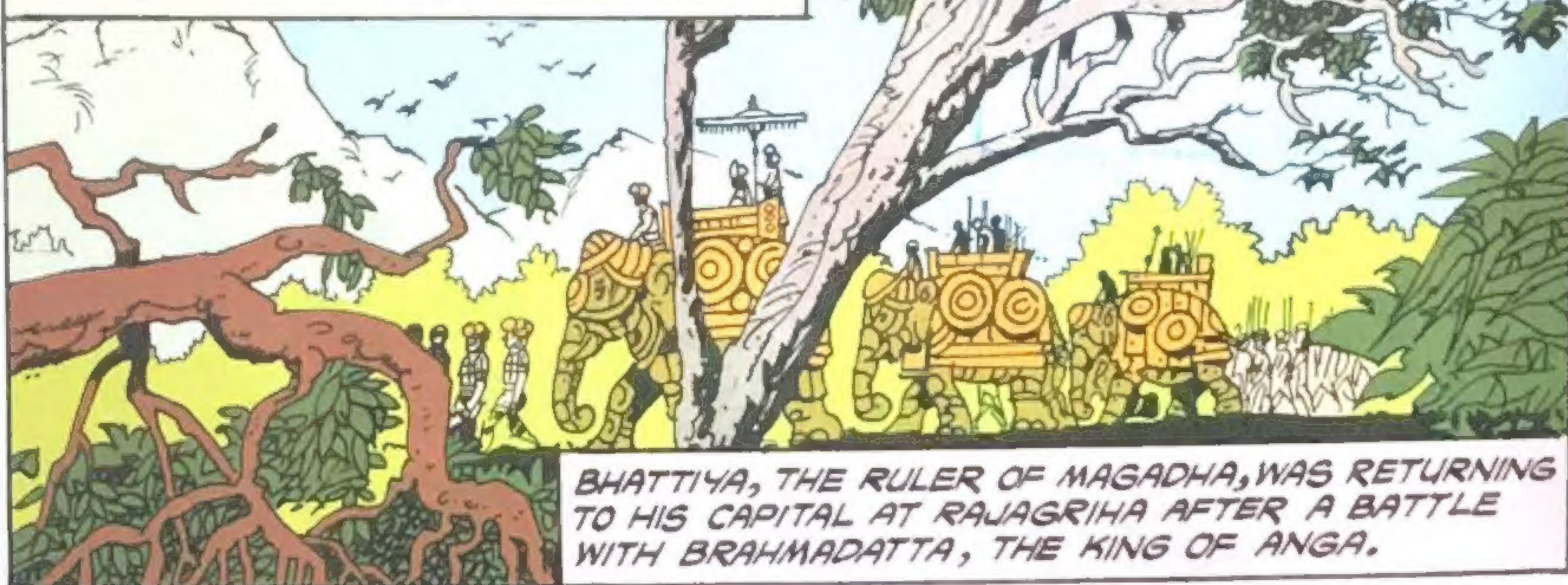


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BIMBISARA



BHATTIYA, THE RULER OF MAGADHA, WAS RETURNING TO HIS CAPITAL AT RAJAGRIHA AFTER A BATTLE WITH BRAHMADATTA, THE KING OF ANGAS.

BIMBISARA, HIS YOUNGEST SON, RAN OUT TO MEET HIM.



YES. BUT WE LOST THE BATTLE, MY SON.

OH!



ONE DAY I'LL TEACH THAT TYRANT A LESSON HE'LL NEVER FORGET.





THE NEXT MORNING BHATTIYA STARED THOUGHTFULLY INTO THE MIRROR.

ANOTHER GRAY HAIR!



IT'S TIME TO THINK OF MY SUCCESSOR!

SO SOON, MY LORD!



YES, MY QUEEN. IT WOULD BE FOLLY NOT TO DO SO.



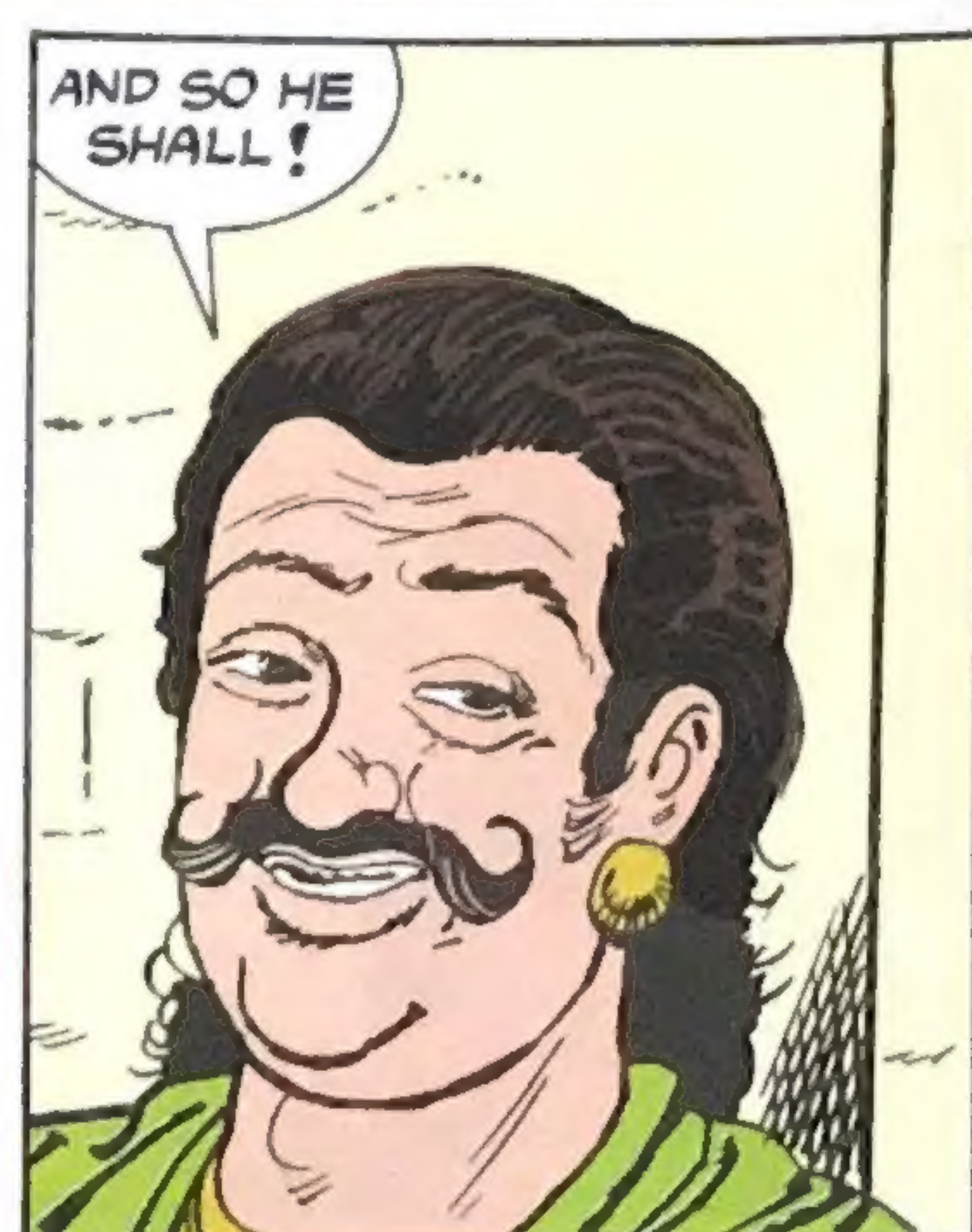
WHO DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE THE CROWN PRINCE?

ISN'T IT THE BIRTHRIGHT OF THE ELDEST? OR IS THERE A CHOICE?



WELL, IF THERE IS?

THEN THE BRAVEST AND THE MOST INTELLIGENT SHOULD BE CHOSEN.



AND SO HE SHALL!



A FEW DAYS LATER, THE KING CALLED HIS FOUR SONS TO HIM.

YOU LEARN MANY THINGS FROM YOUR TUTOR. I WANT TO TEST THE SKILLS YOU HAVE ACQUIRED.

A TEST!

WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO?



YOU HAVE TO EAT THE KAULI IN THE BASKET AND DRINK SOME OF THE WATER SEALED IN THE EARTHEN POT...



...WITHOUT OPENING THE BASKET OR BREAKING THE POT.



THAT WILL SHOW ME WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT FROM YOUR LESSONS.

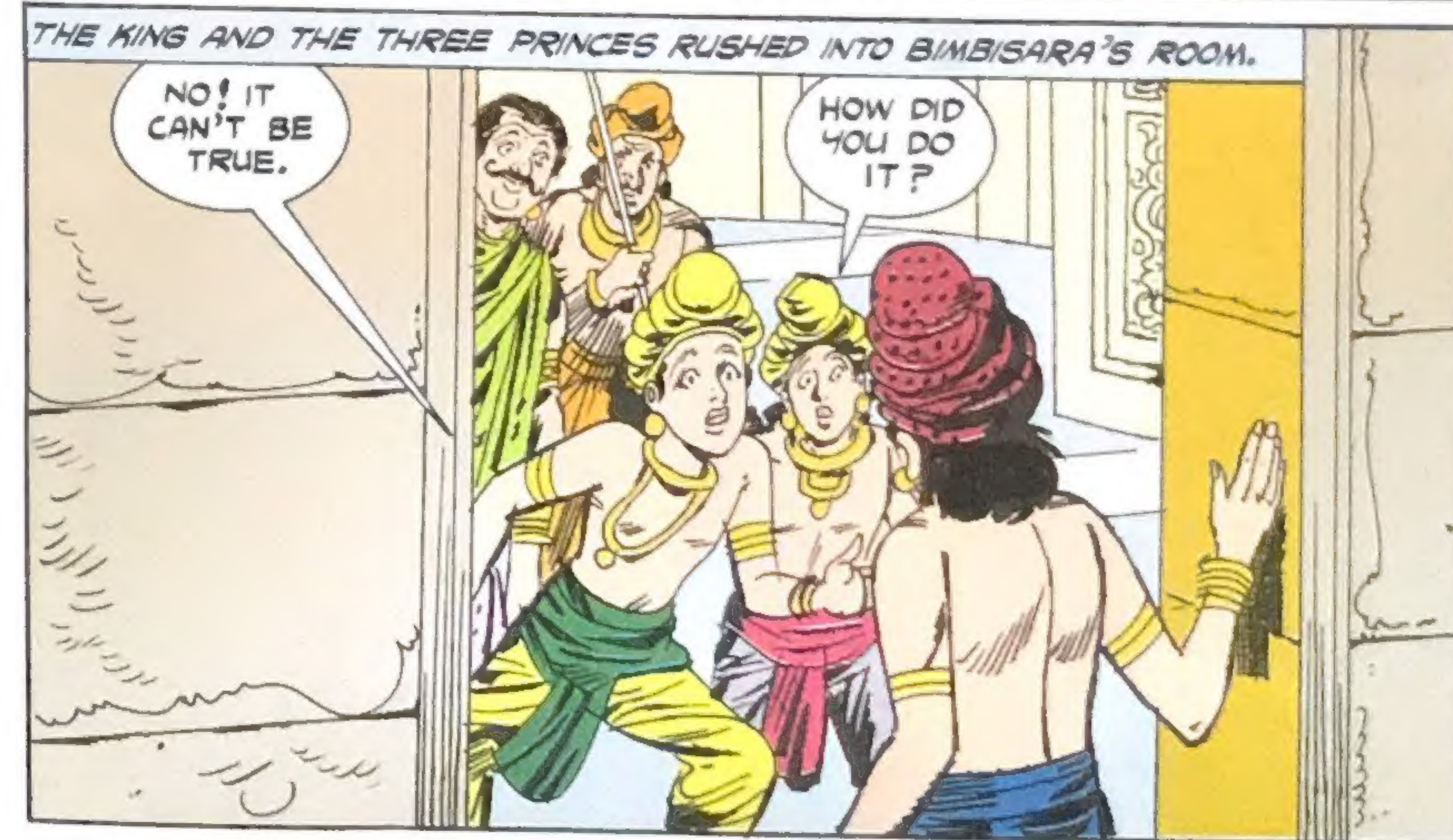
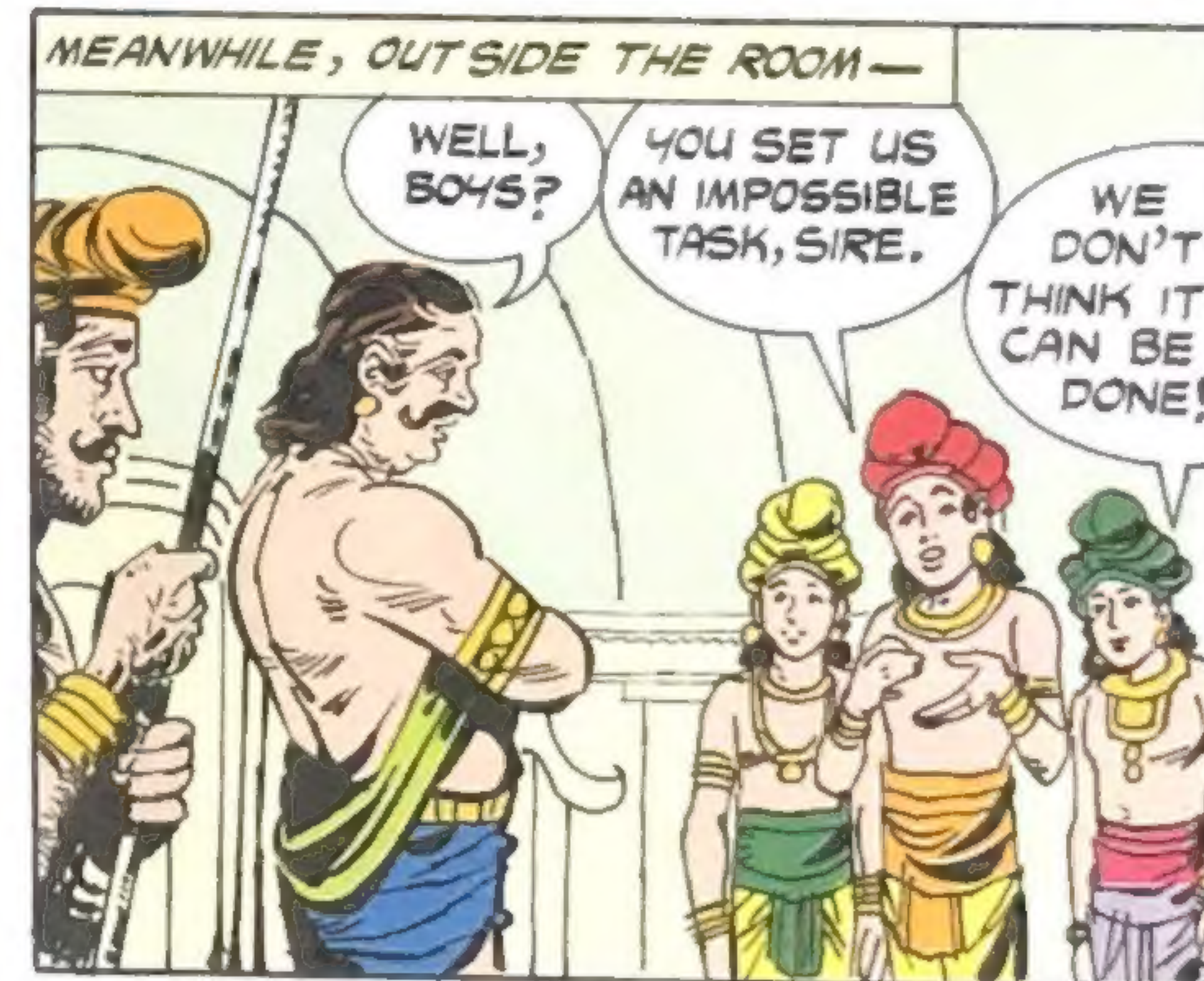
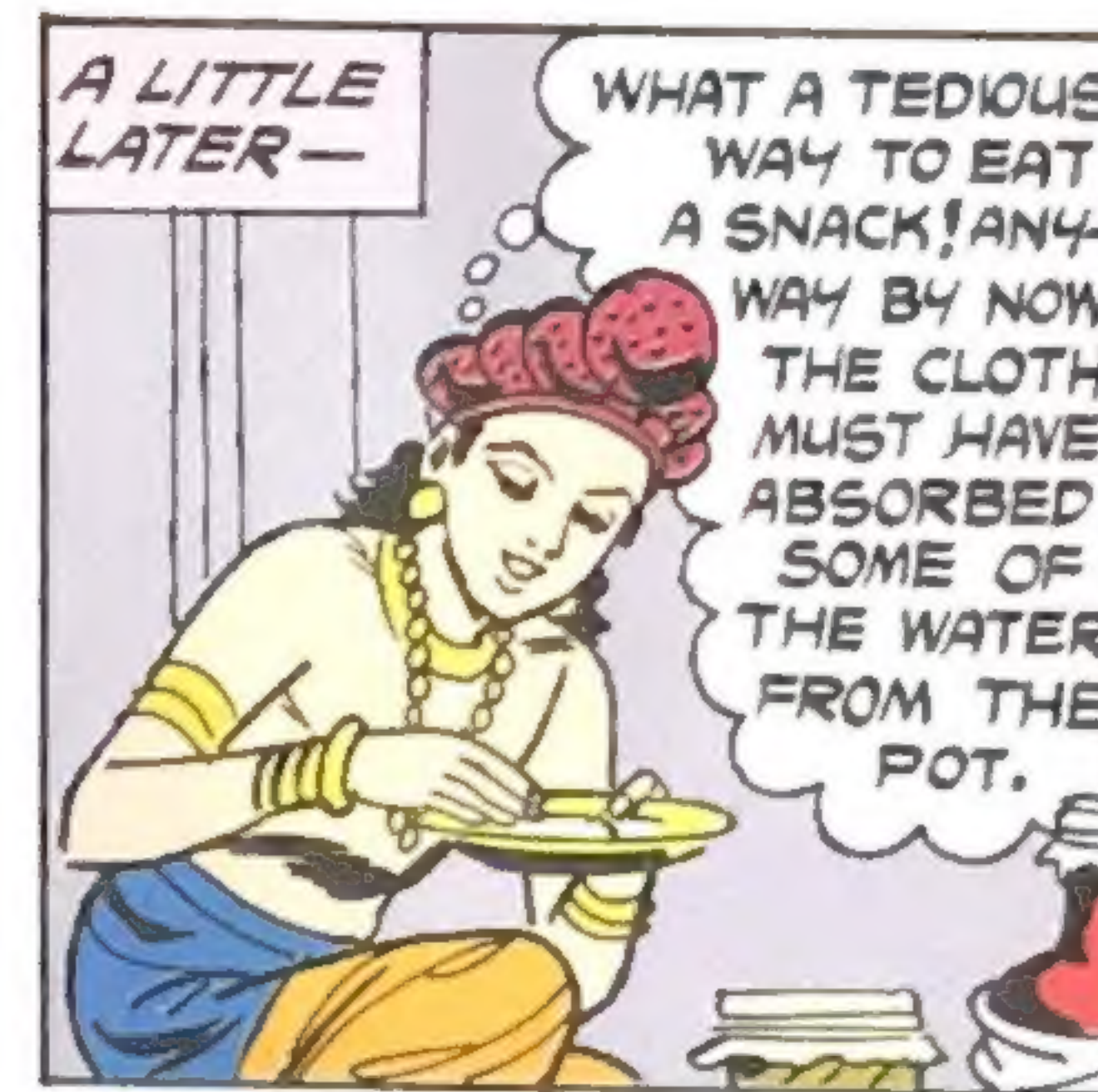
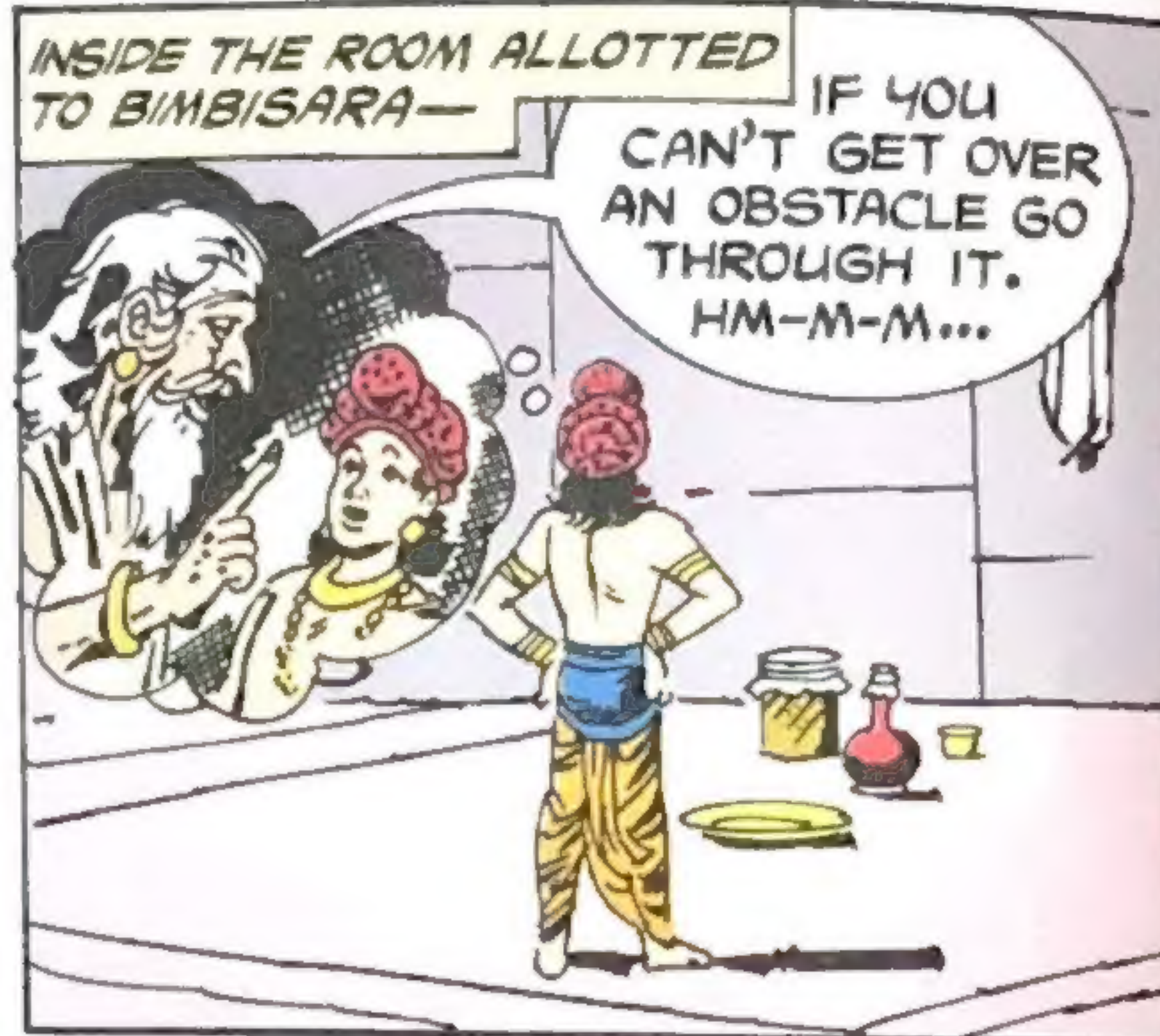
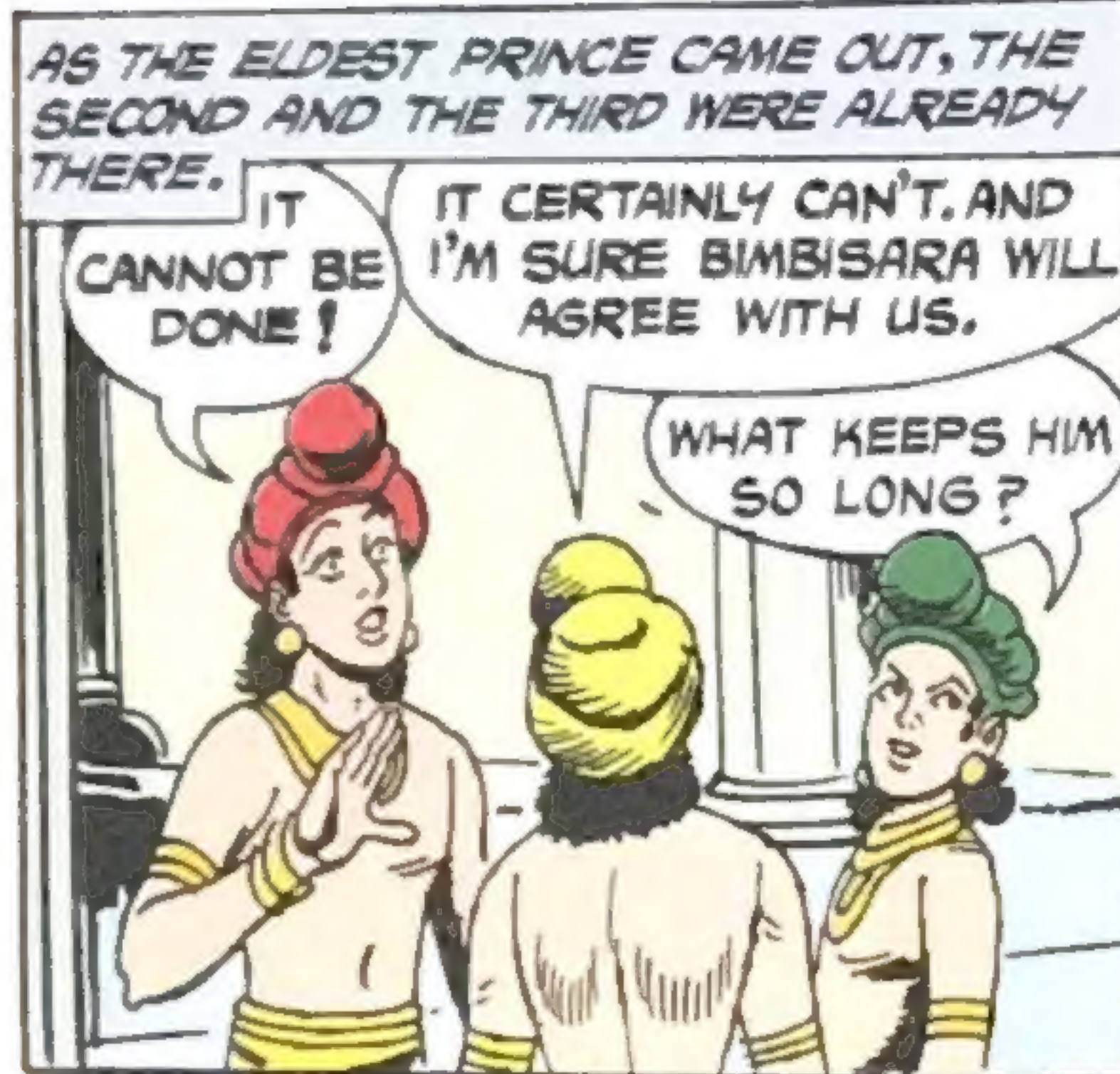


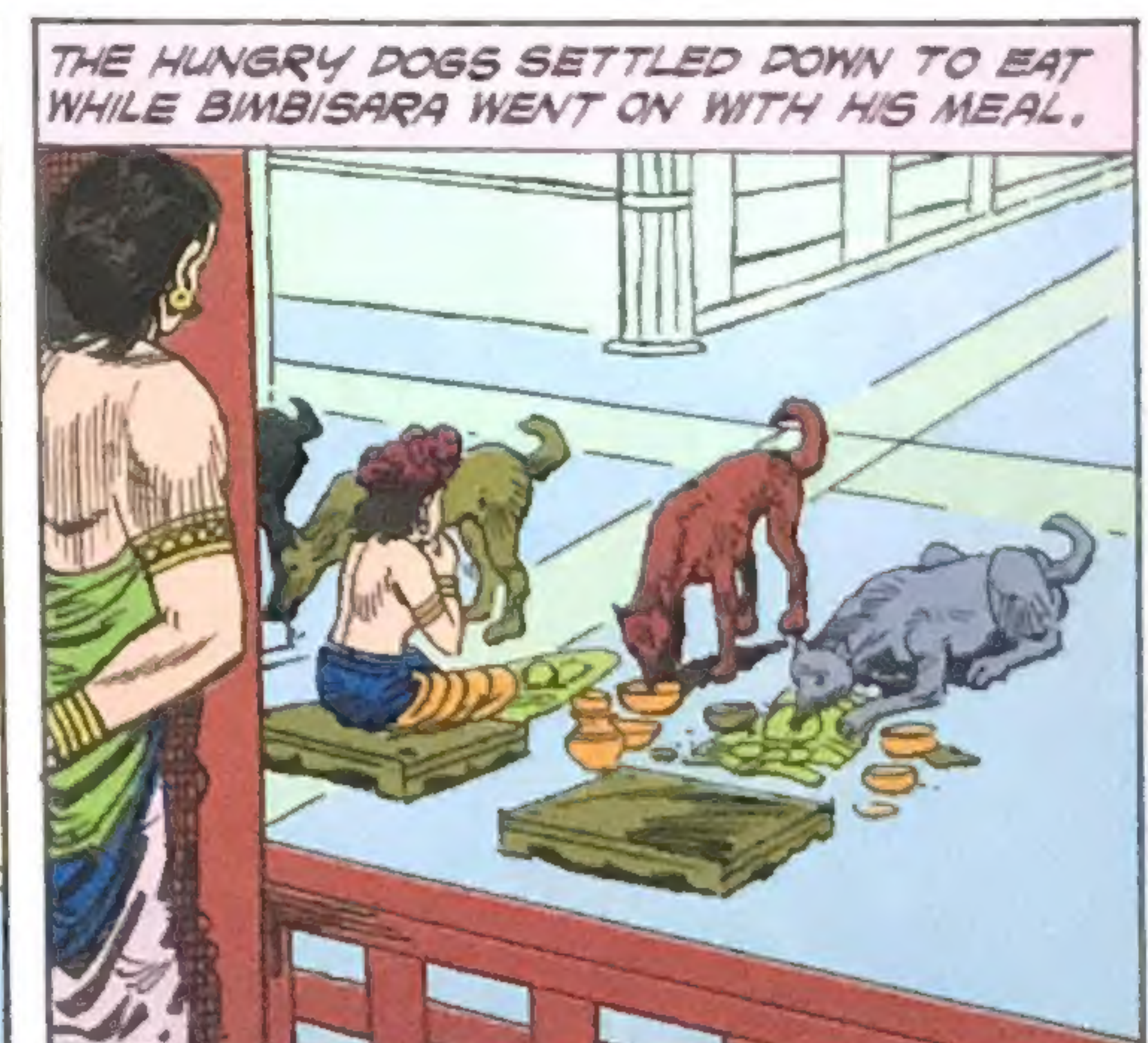
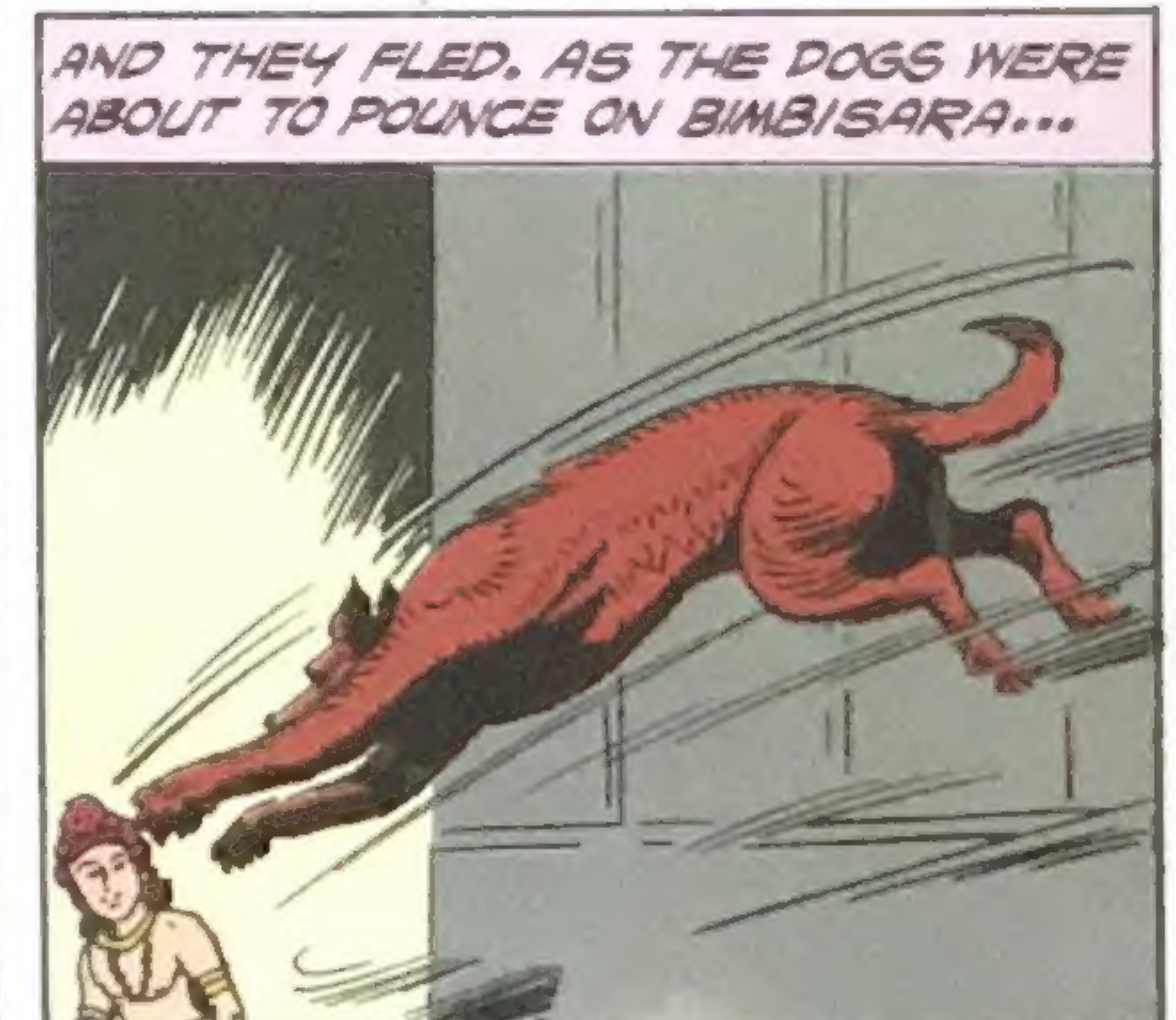
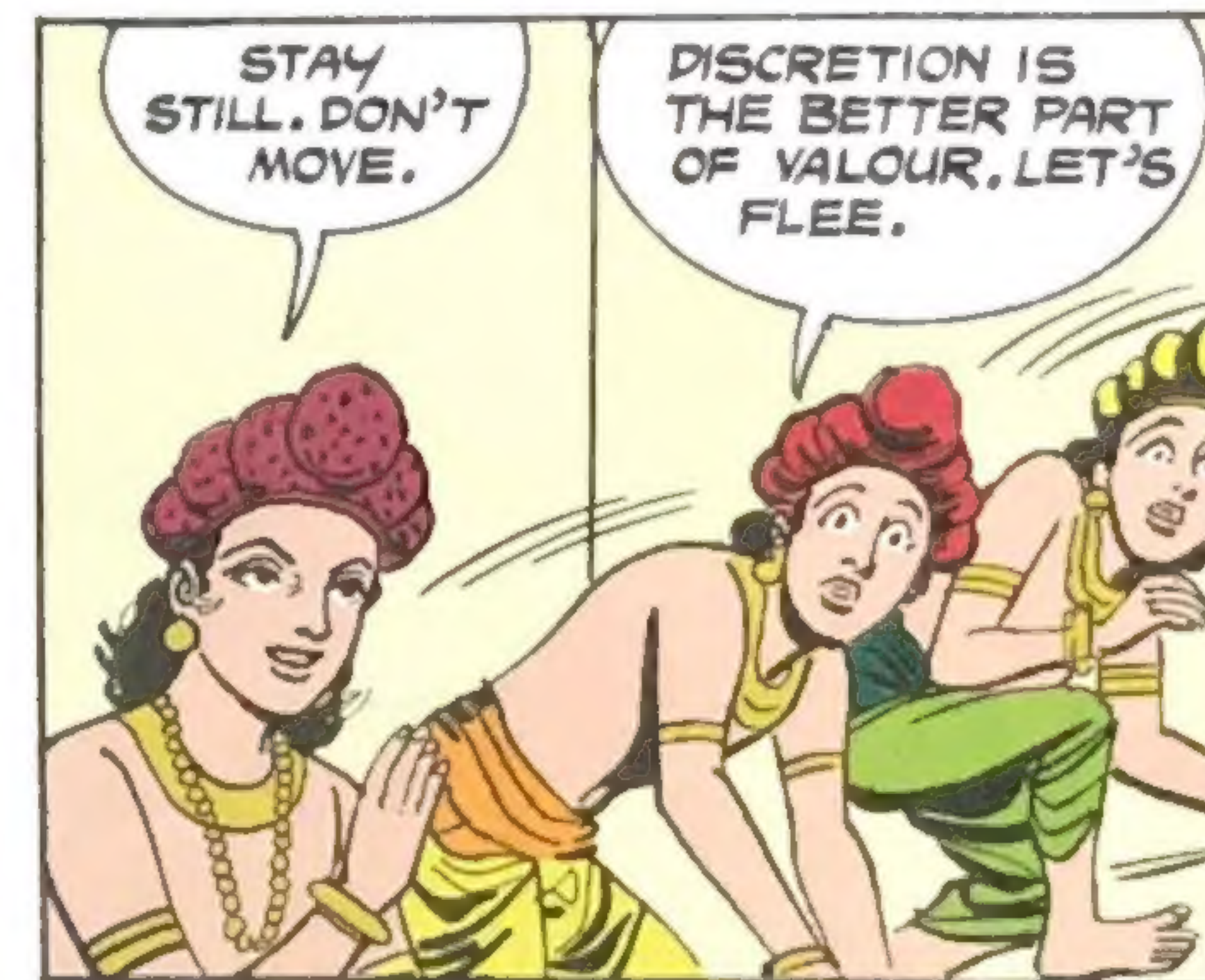
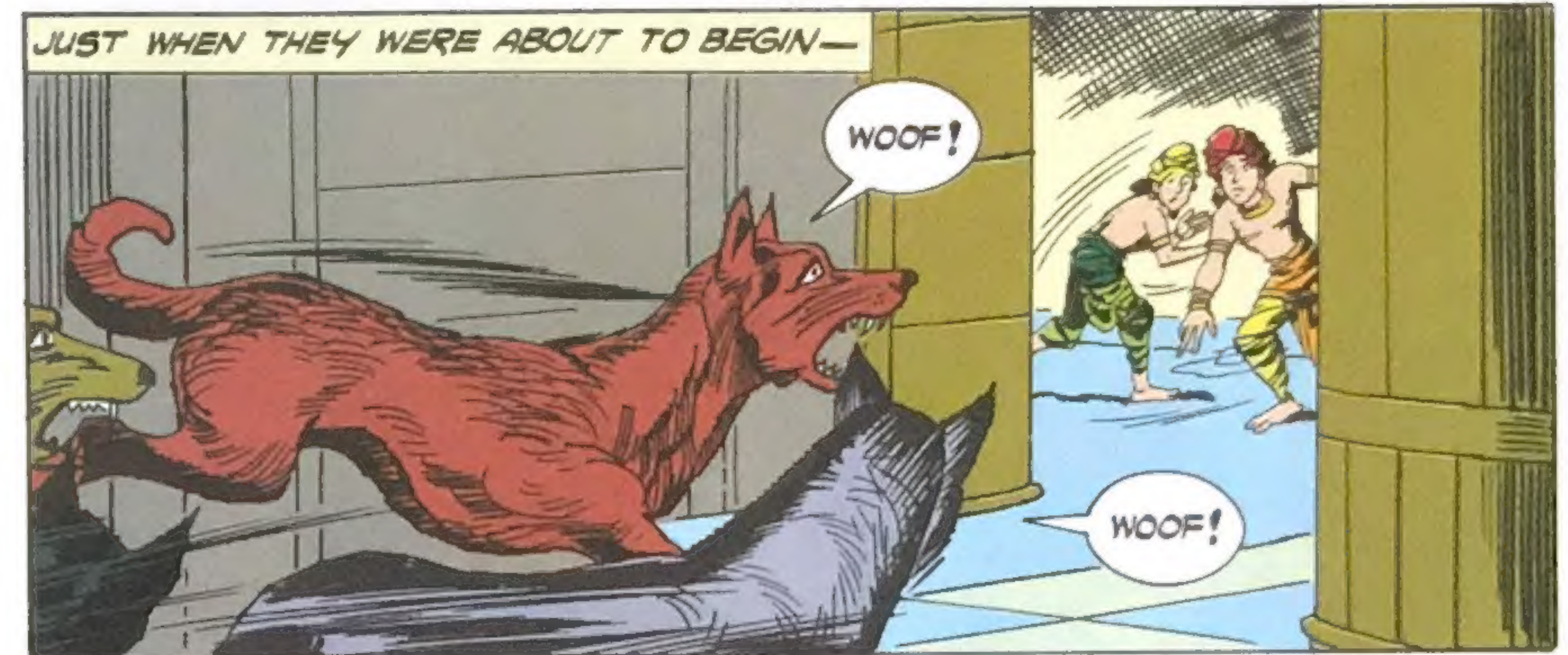
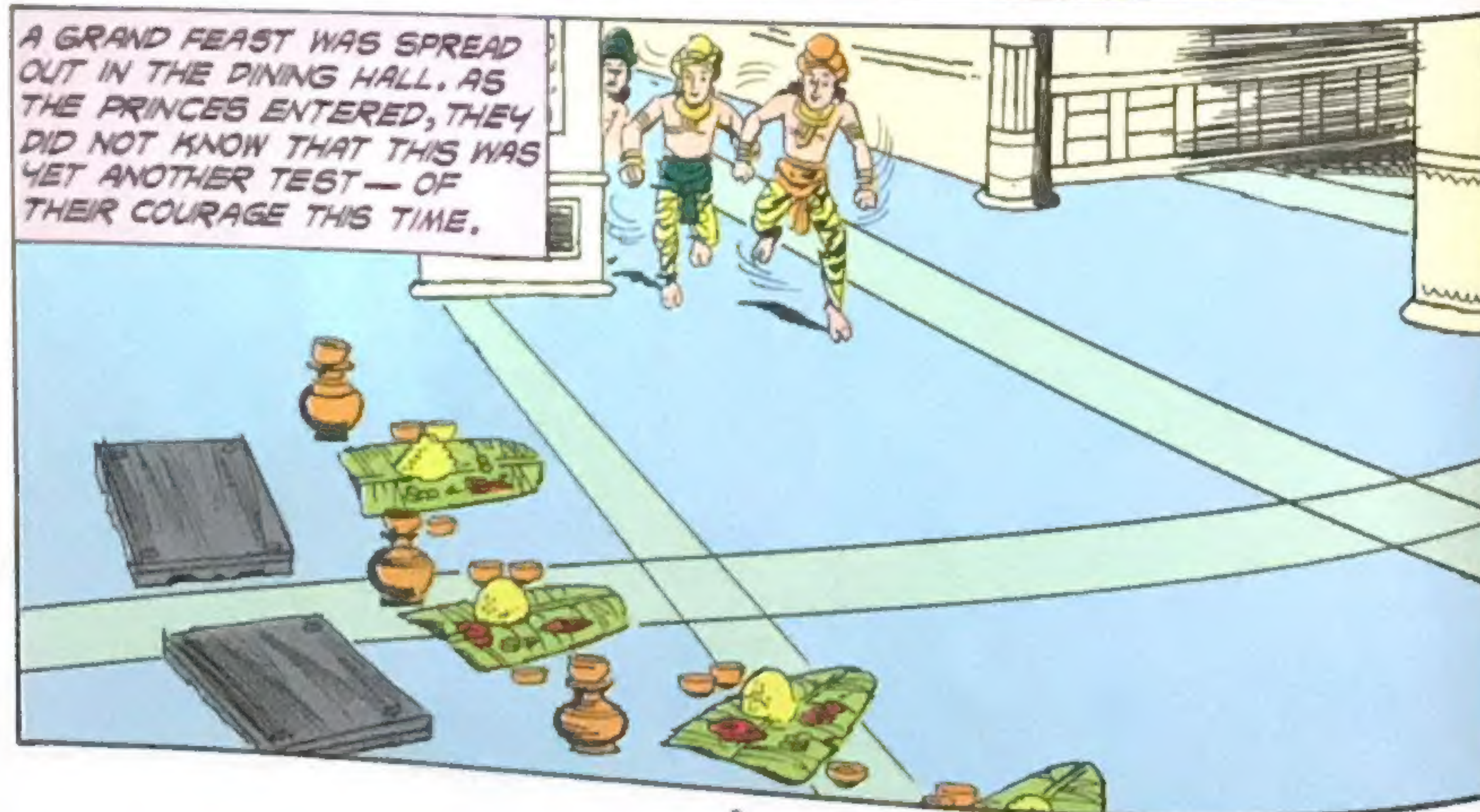
YOU MAY GO INTO THE ROOMS AND BEGIN.



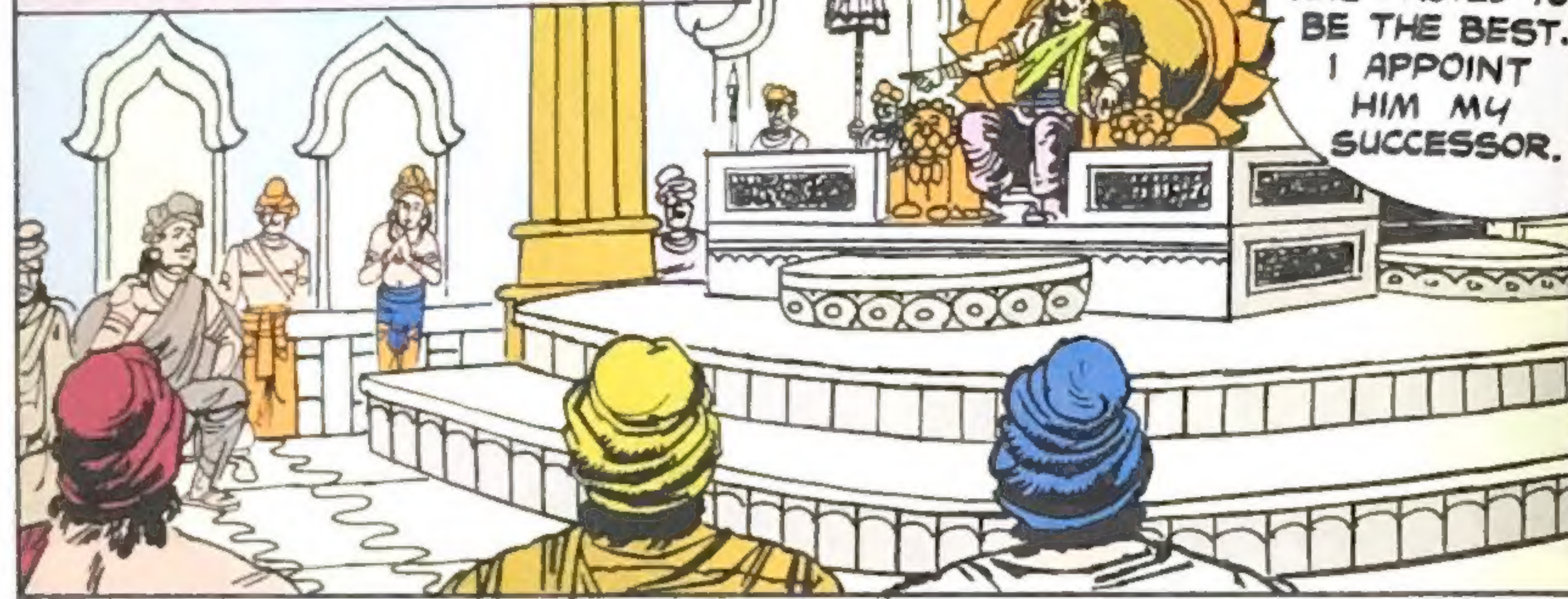
EACH OF THE PRINCES HAD TO TAKE THE TEST IN A ROOM SPECIALLY ALLOTTED TO HIM.

I GIVE UP!



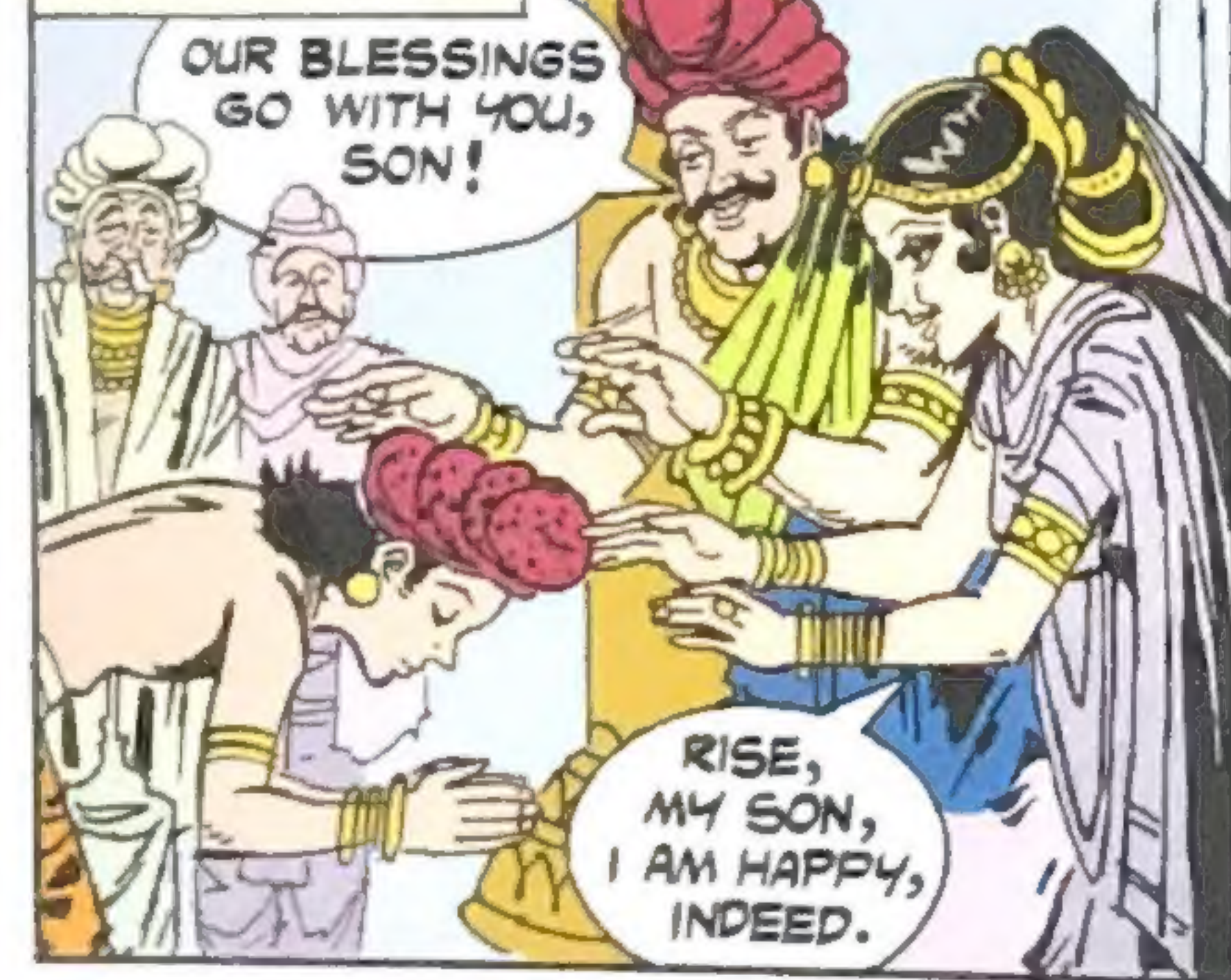


THE VERY NEXT DAY THE KING CALLED AN ASSEMBLY OF HIS MINISTERS AND PROMINENT CITIZENS.



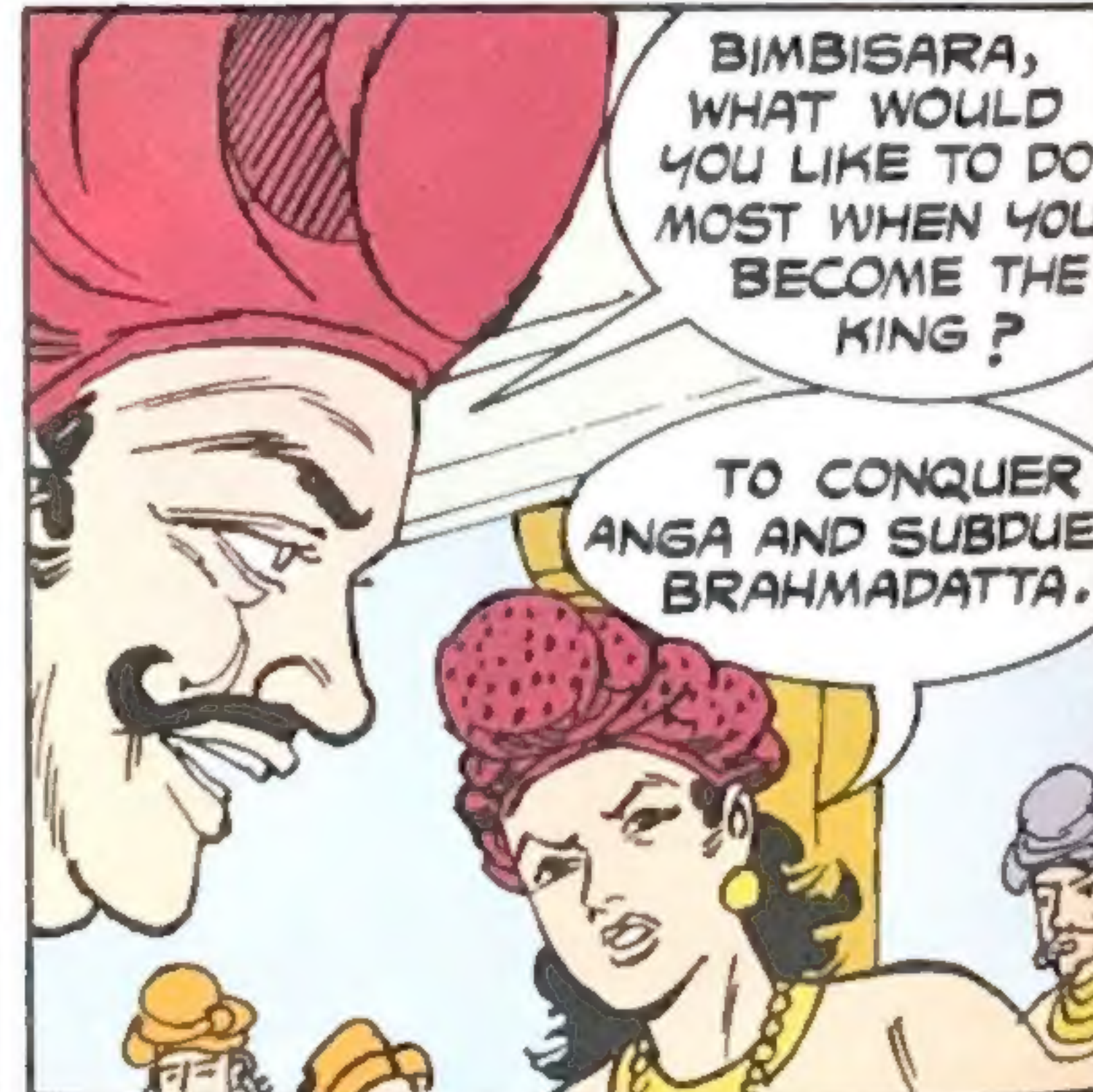
THOUGH THE YOUNGEST, BIMBISARA HAS PROVED TO BE THE BEST. I APPOINT HIM MY SUCCESSOR.

SOON BIMBISARA WAS ANOINTED AS THE CROWN PRINCE.



OUR BLESSINGS GO WITH YOU, SON!

RISE, MY SON, I AM HAPPY, INDEED.



BIMBISARA, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO MOST WHEN YOU BECOME THE KING?

TO CONQUER ANGAS AND SUBDUCE BRAHMADATTA.

DON'T BE IN A HURRY, SON! BRAHMADATTA IS STRONG AND YOU SHOULD BIDE YOUR TIME.



I WILL MAKE A MOVE ONLY WHEN I AM FULLY PREPARED.

BEFORE LONG, THE KING PASSED AWAY AND BIMBISARA, WHO WAS BARELY FIFTEEN, ASCENDED THE THRONE.



THOUGH YOUNG IN YEARS, BIMBISARA HAD ALREADY FORMED A CLEAR PLAN TO EXPAND THE MAGADHAN EMPIRE.



THE FIRST TO BE CONQUERED NATURALLY WERE THE STATES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.



THERE WERE ALSO SKIRMISHES WITH THE POWERFUL LICHCHHAVIS.

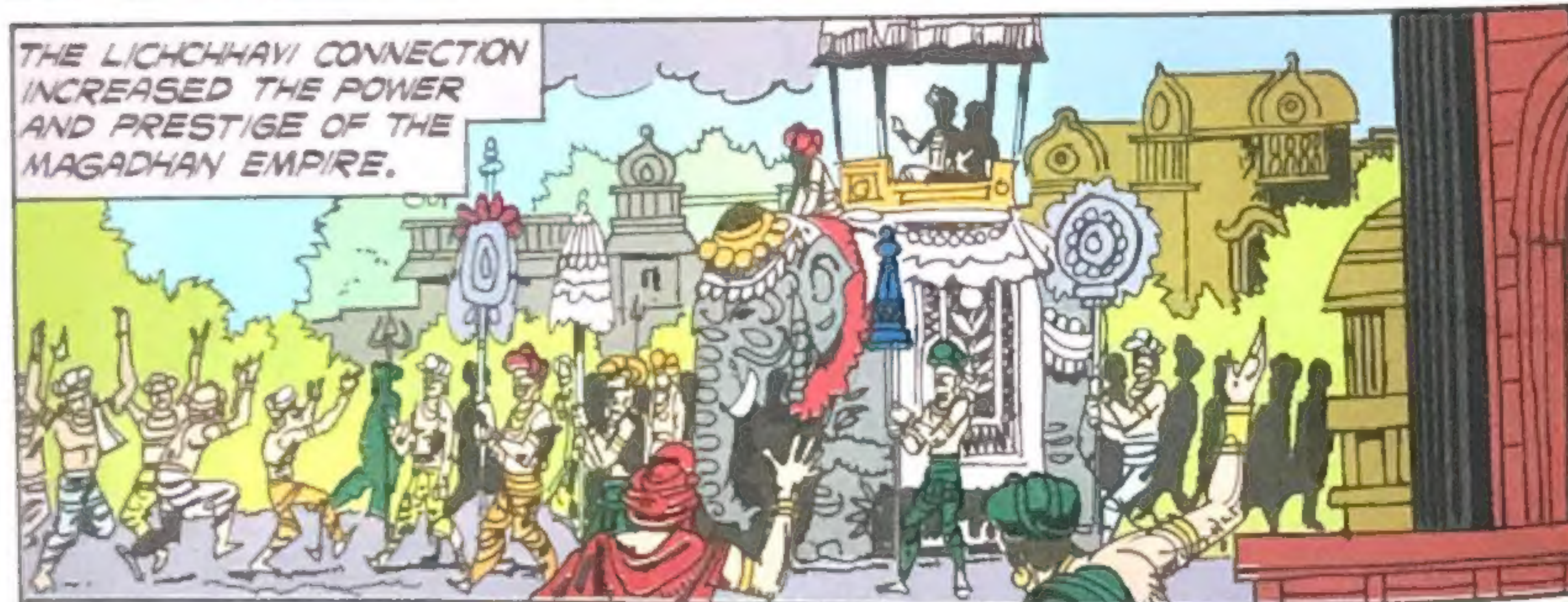
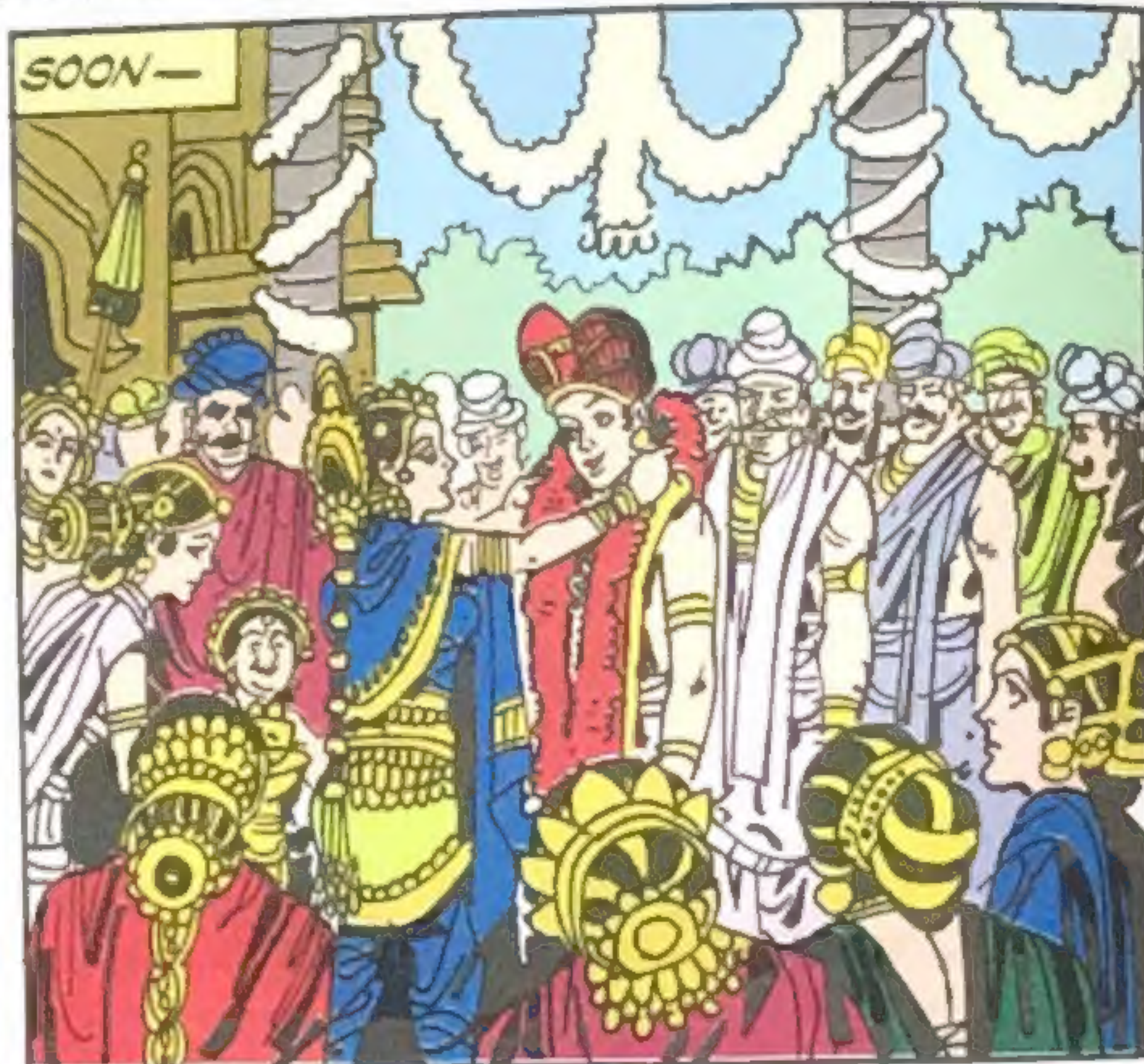


AT VAISHALI, THE LEADERS OF THE LICHCHHAVI REPUBLICS MET UNDER THE CHIEF, RAJA CHETAKA.

BIMBISARA THREATENS WAR! BUT I DO NOT WANT THE KING OF MAGADHA FOR AN ENEMY.



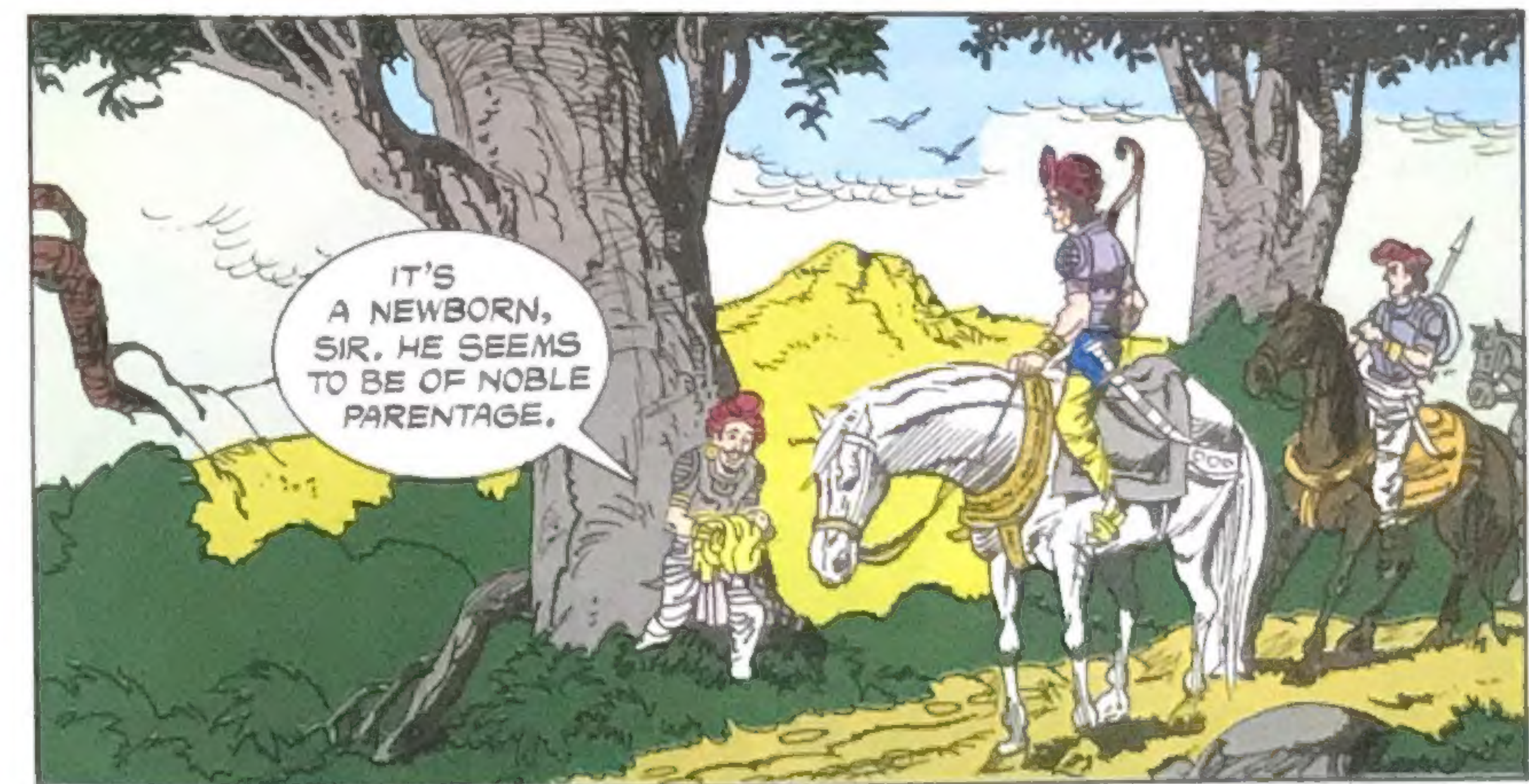
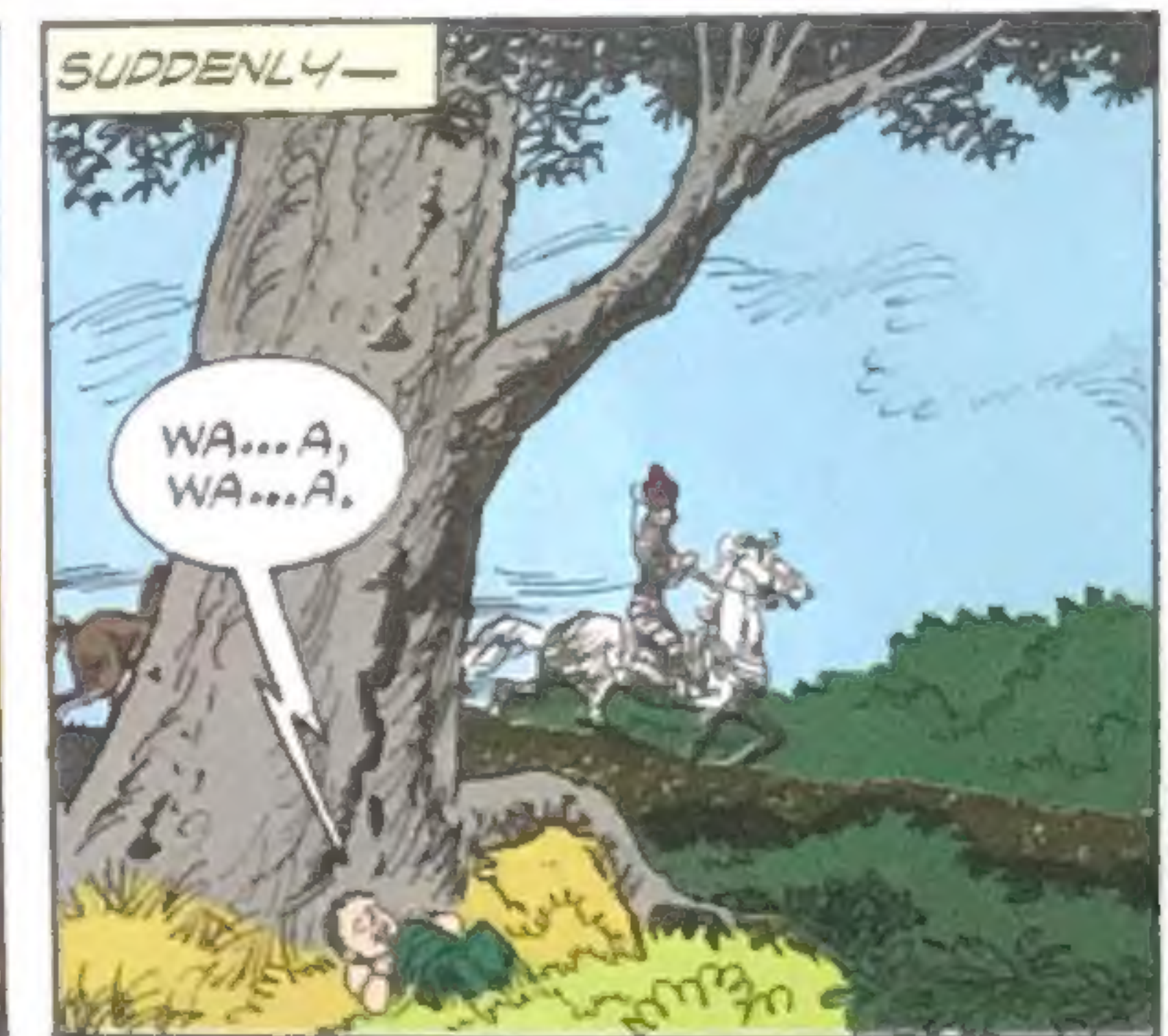
WE TRUST YOUR JUDGEMENT, CHETAKA.



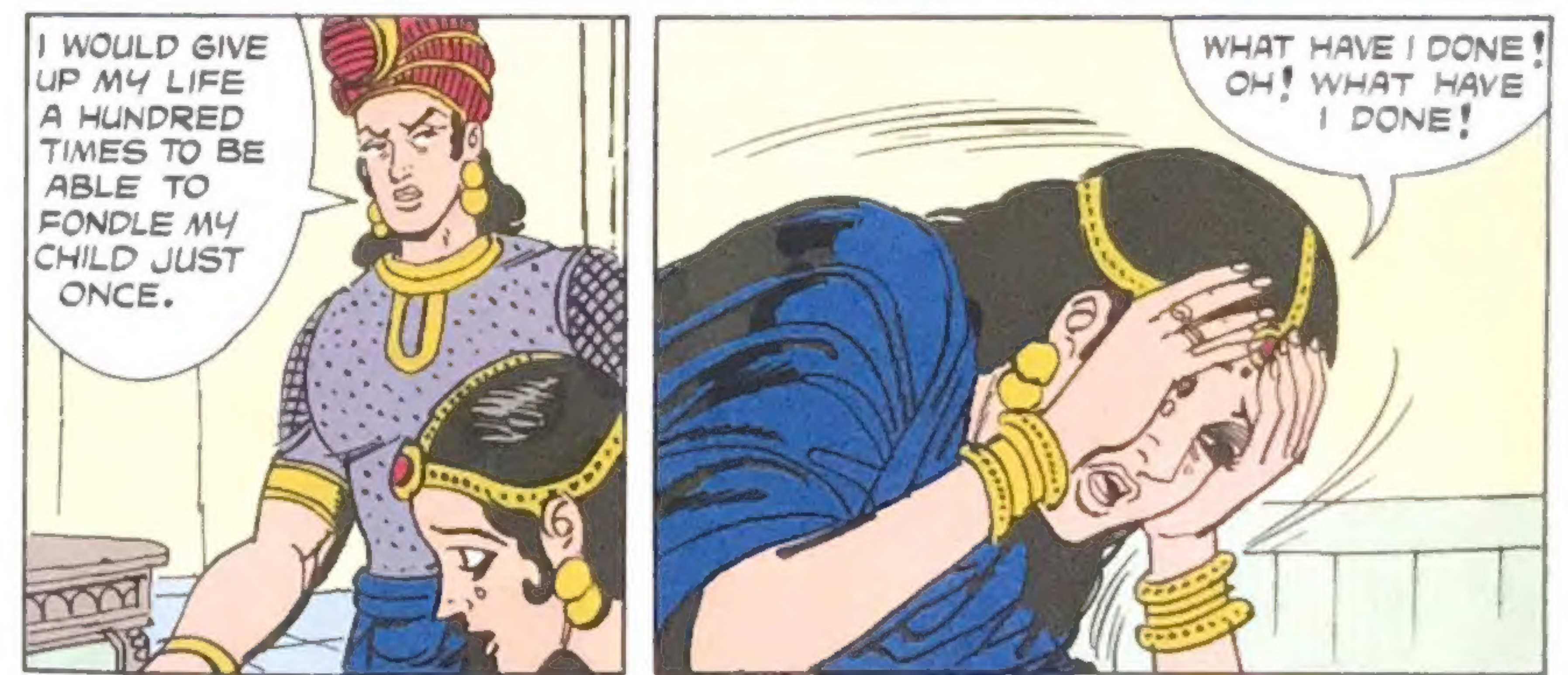
*ONE WHOSE ENEMY IS NOT BORN—HENCE, ONE WHO IS EVER VICTORIOUS.



A FEW DAYS LATER, BIMBISARA WAS ON HIS WAY BACK TO HIS CAPITAL.







THEN BIMBISARA ORDERED THAT THE CHILD HE HAD FOUND IN THE FOREST BE BROUGHT IN.

THIS—THIS IS OUR SON! I KNOW. LOOK, MY ROBE! THE ONE I WRAPPED HIM IN!



MY CHILD! THANK GOD YOU ARE ALIVE!



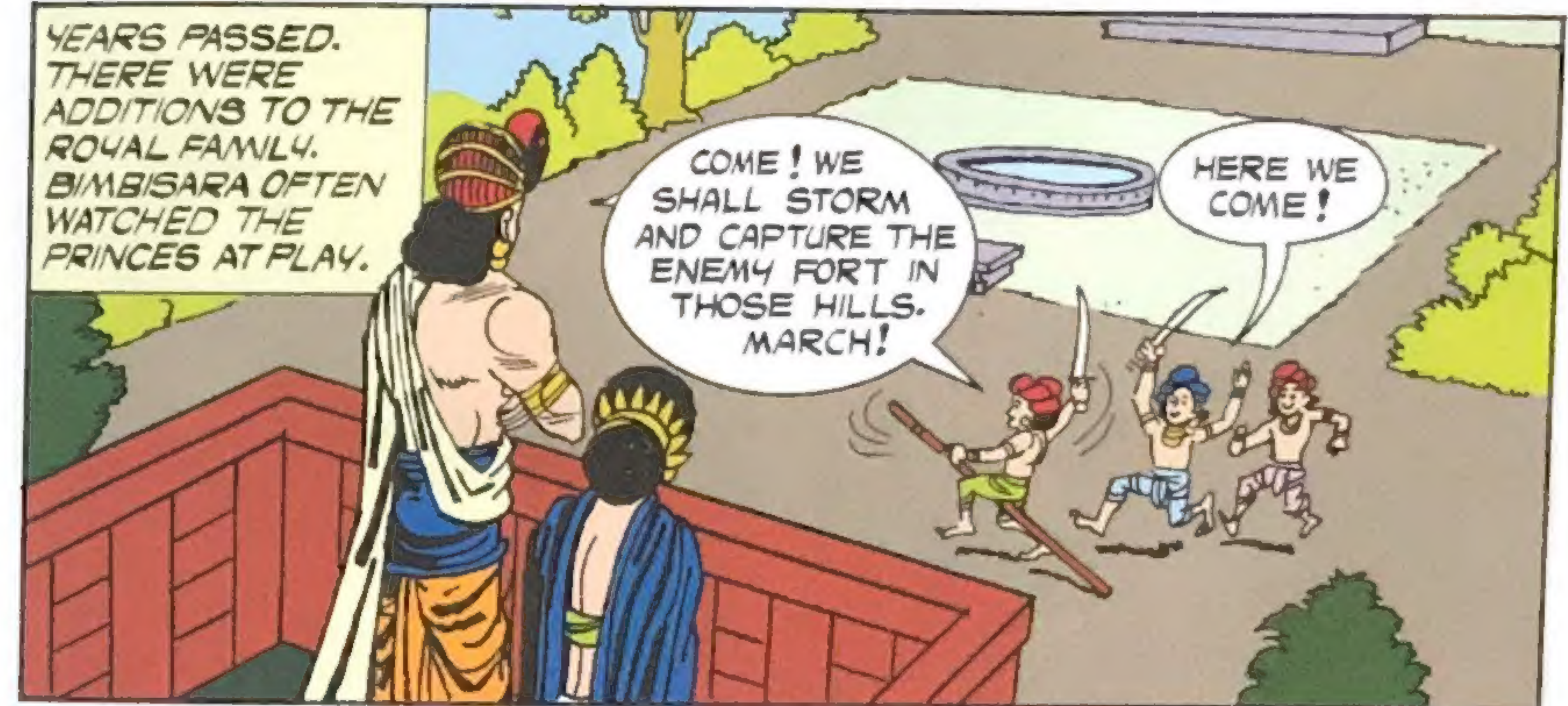
LOOK AT HIM! SEE HOW HE SMILES IN HIS SLEEP!



NO HARM SHOULD EVER COME TO HIM AND HE SHOULD NEVER HEAR OF THIS.

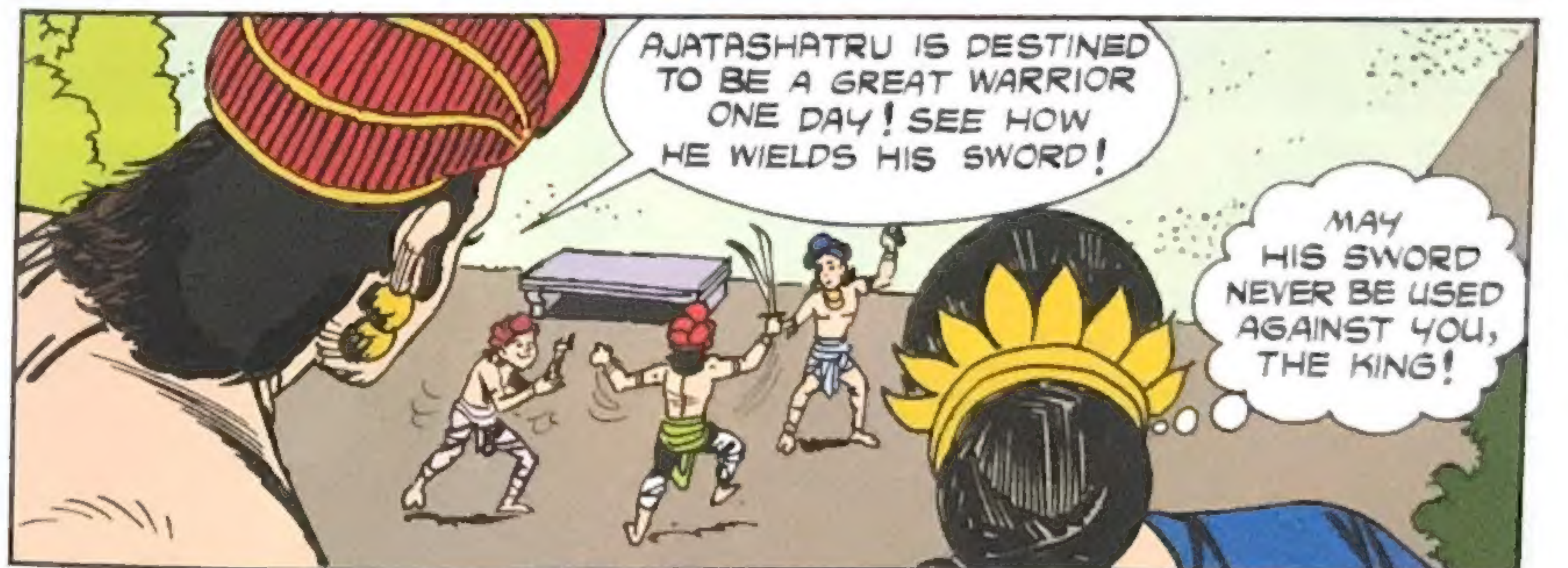


YEARS PASSED. THERE WERE ADDITIONS TO THE ROYAL FAMILY. BIMBISARA OFTEN WATCHED THE PRINCES AT PLAY.



COME! WE SHALL STORM AND CAPTURE THE ENEMY FORT IN THOSE HILLS. MARCH!

HERE WE COME!



AJATASHATRU IS DESTINED TO BE A GREAT WARRIOR ONE DAY! SEE HOW HE WIELDS HIS SWORD!

MAY HIS SWORD NEVER BE USED AGAINST YOU, THE KING!

ONE DAY AS BIMBISARA TOOK A ROUND OF THE CITY—

WHO IS THAT ASCETIC? HIS VERY LOOKS SEEM TO SPREAD PEACE AND GOODNESS.



HE IS THE SAKYA PRINCE.

SO THIS IS GAUTAMA, THE PRINCE OF KAPILAVASTU!



BIMBISARA WALKED UP TO THE YOUNG ASCETIC.

WHAT A COMMANDING FACE! HE IS BORN TO RULE!

THESE ROBES OF AN ASCETIC DO NOT BEFIT YOU, GAUTAMA. COME WITH ME, I'LL MAKE YOU THE KING OF HALF OF MAGADHA.

SUCH KINGDOMS ARE NOT FOR ME. I HAVE ALREADY WALKED AWAY FROM ONE!

BUT WHY, O GAUTAMA?

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO GAIN BY GIVING UP ALL YOUR POSSESSIONS?

I SEEK THE CAUSE OF THE MISERY WHICH I SEE ALL AROUND...

...AND THE WAY TO END IT.

WHEN YOU LEARN THE WAY TO END MISERY, PRAY COME BACK AND TEACH US.

IF YOU SO WISH.

GAUTAMA WALKED AWAY...

...AND BIMBISARA TURNED TO MATTERS OF STATE. ONE DAY -

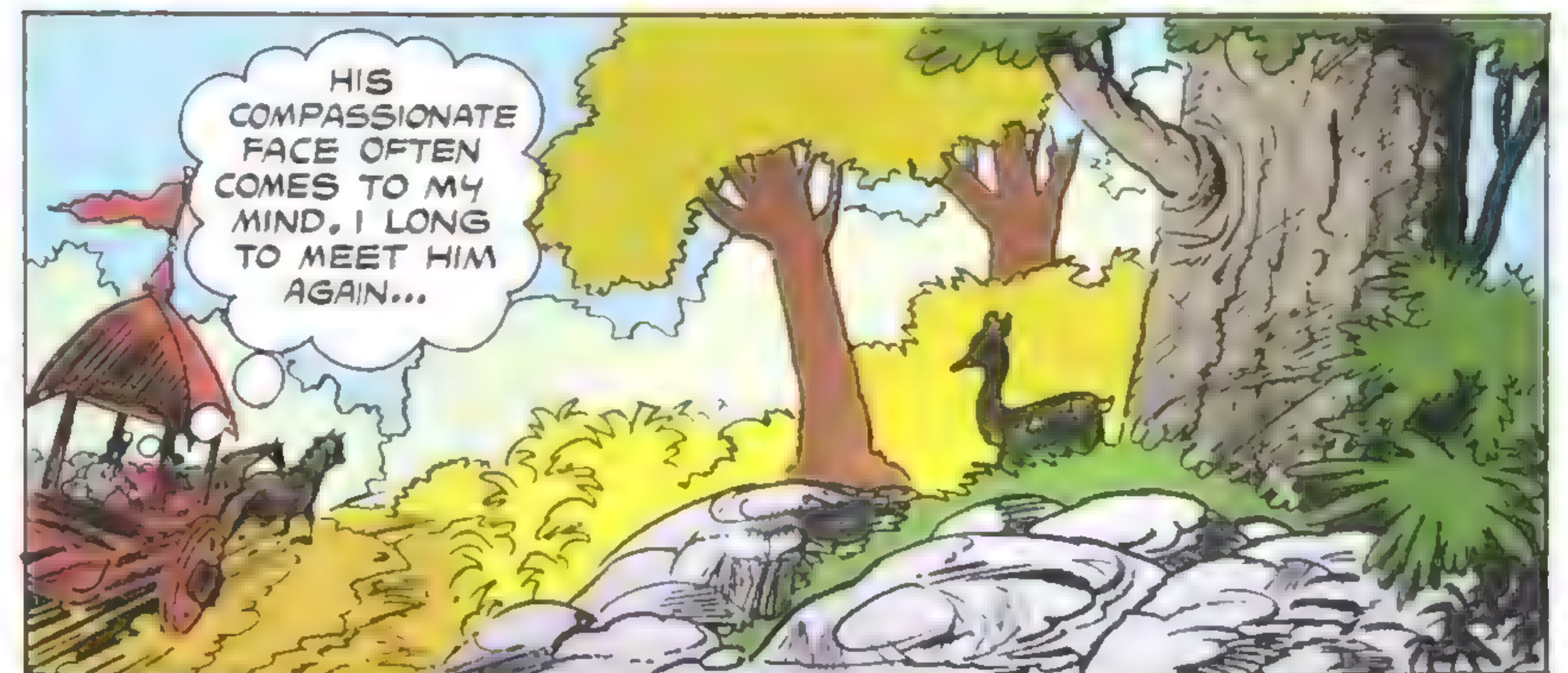
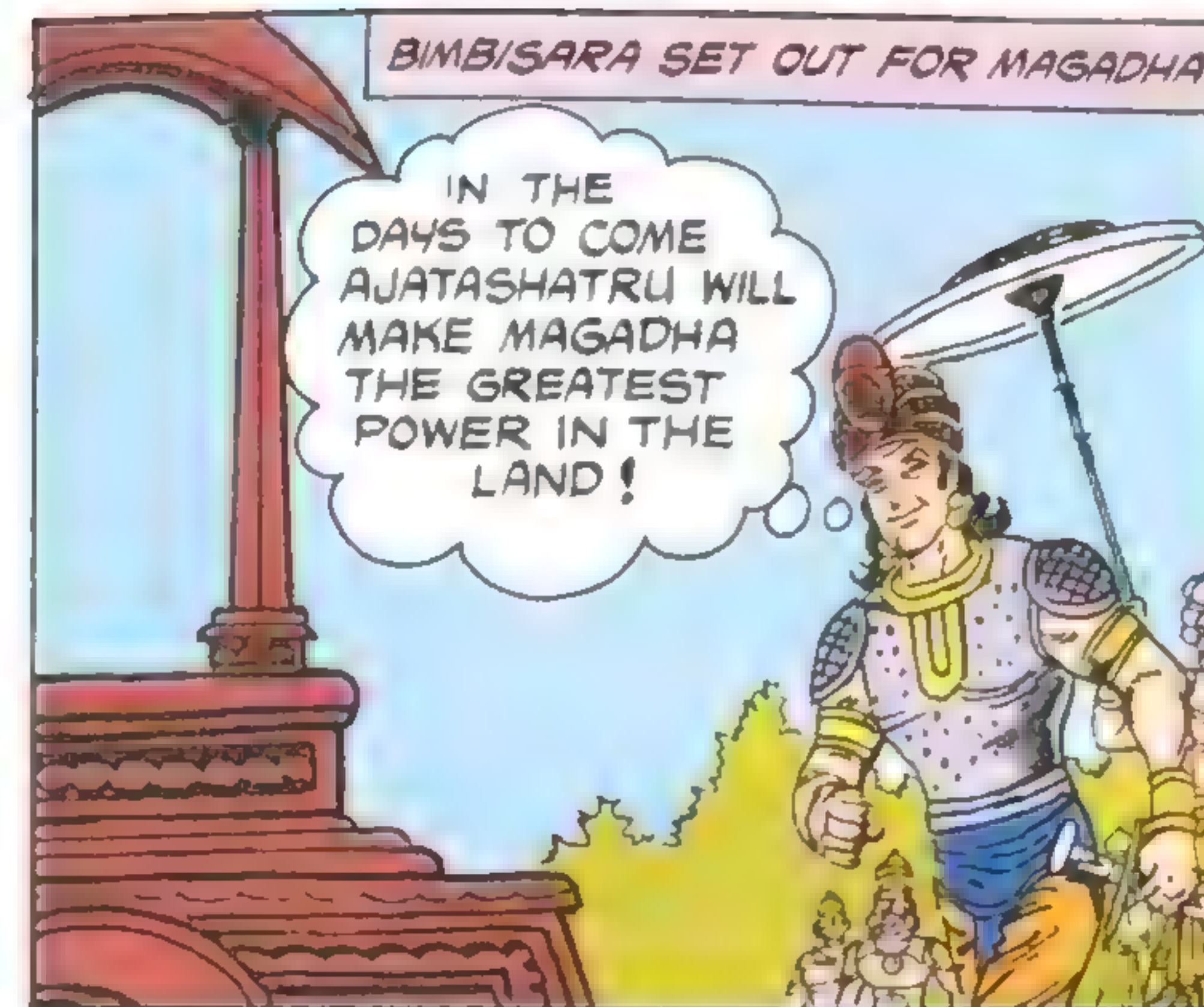
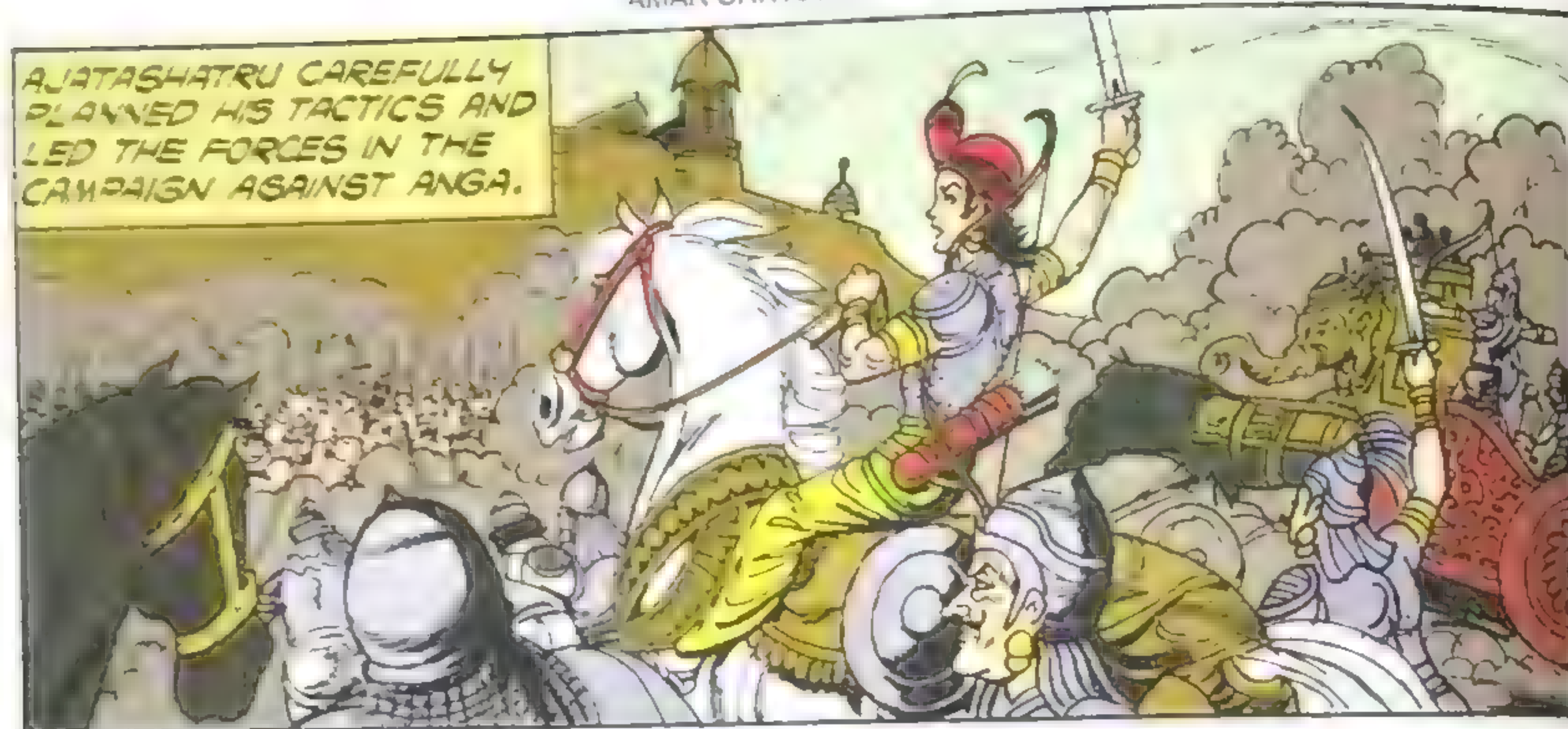
REPORTS FROM ANGA ARE DISTURBING, SIR.

BRAHMADATTA HAS ONCE AGAIN BEGUN TO HARASS OUR PEOPLE ON THE BORDERS!

BRAHMADATTA SHOULD BE TAUGHT A LESSON HE WILL NEVER FORGET!

THE VERY WORDS I UTTERED MANY YEARS AGO!

WE SHALL MARCH ON ANGA AND YOU SHALL LEAD THE FORCES.



BIMBISARA IMMEDIATELY WENT TO MEET THE MONK.



...THE BUDDHA! YOU HAVE FOUND THE WAY, AND COME TO TEACH US, THEN!

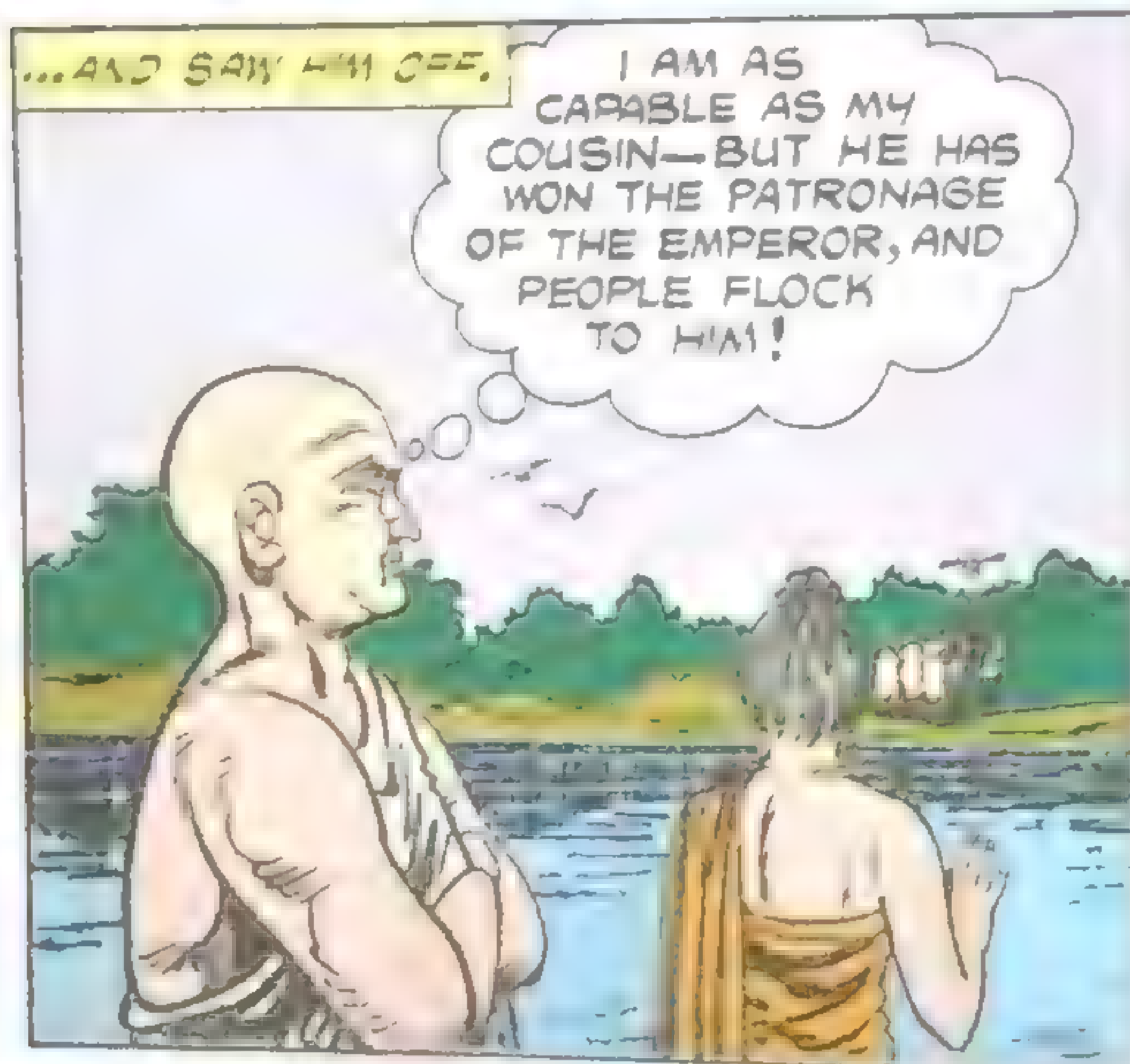


LATER WHEN BUDDHA LEFT MAGADHA, BIMBISARA WALKED BEHIND HIM UPTO THE BORDER...



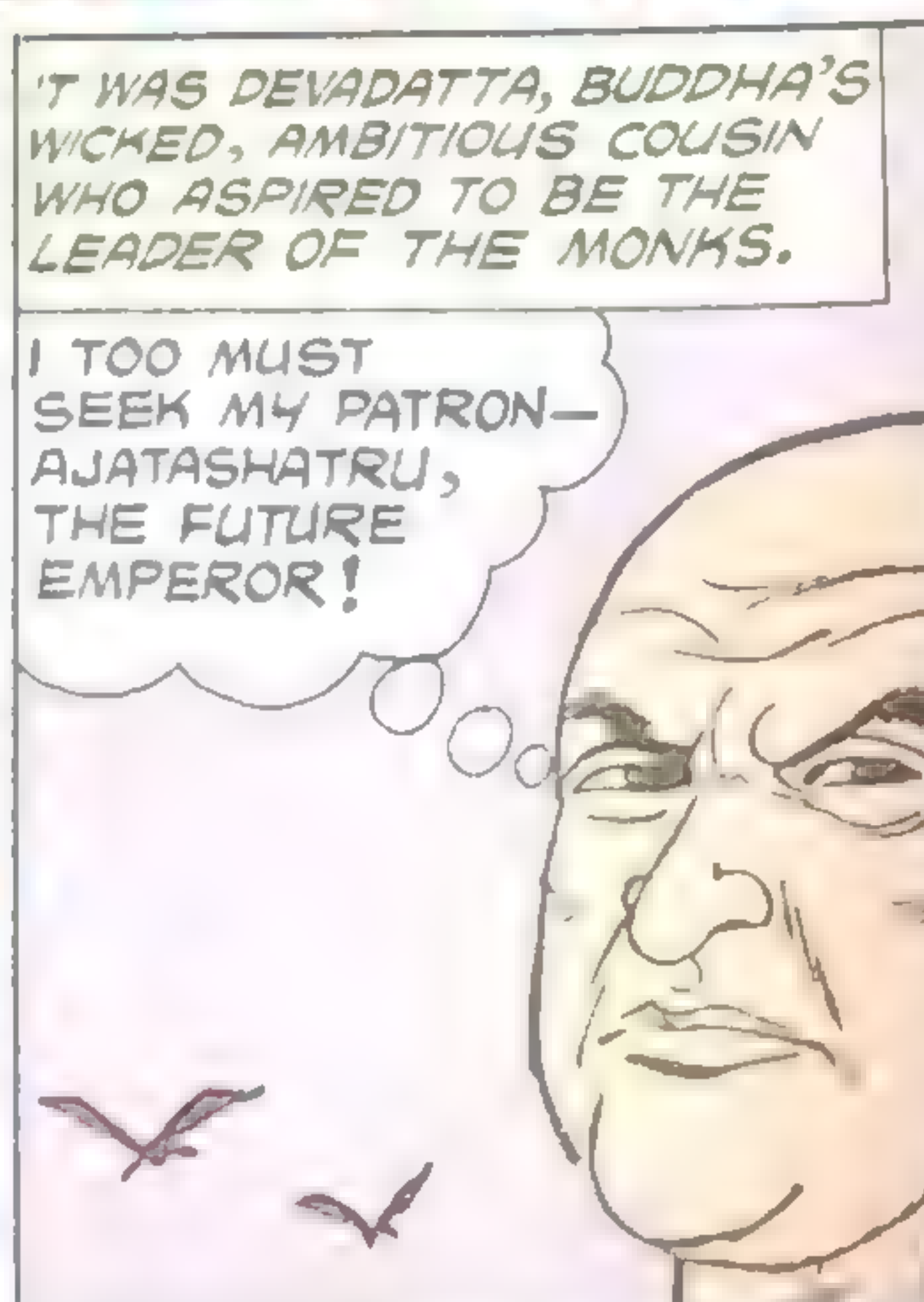
...AND SAW HIM OFF.

I AM AS CAPABLE AS MY COUSIN—BUT HE HAS WON THE PATRONAGE OF THE EMPEROR, AND PEOPLE FLOCK TO HIM!

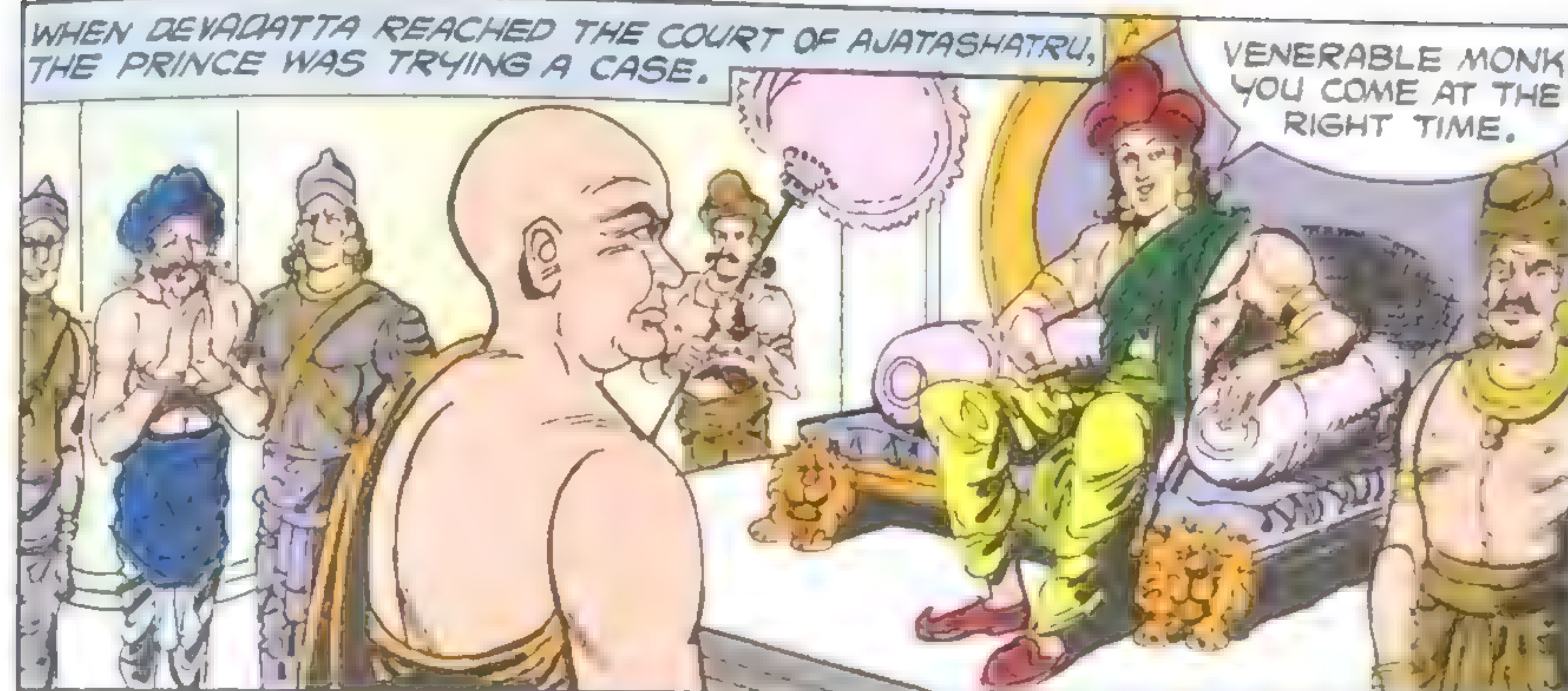


IT WAS DEVADATTA, BUDDHA'S WICKED, AMBITIOUS COUSIN WHO ASPIRED TO BE THE LEADER OF THE MONKS.

I TOO MUST SEEK MY PATRON—AJATASHATRU, THE FUTURE EMPEROR!



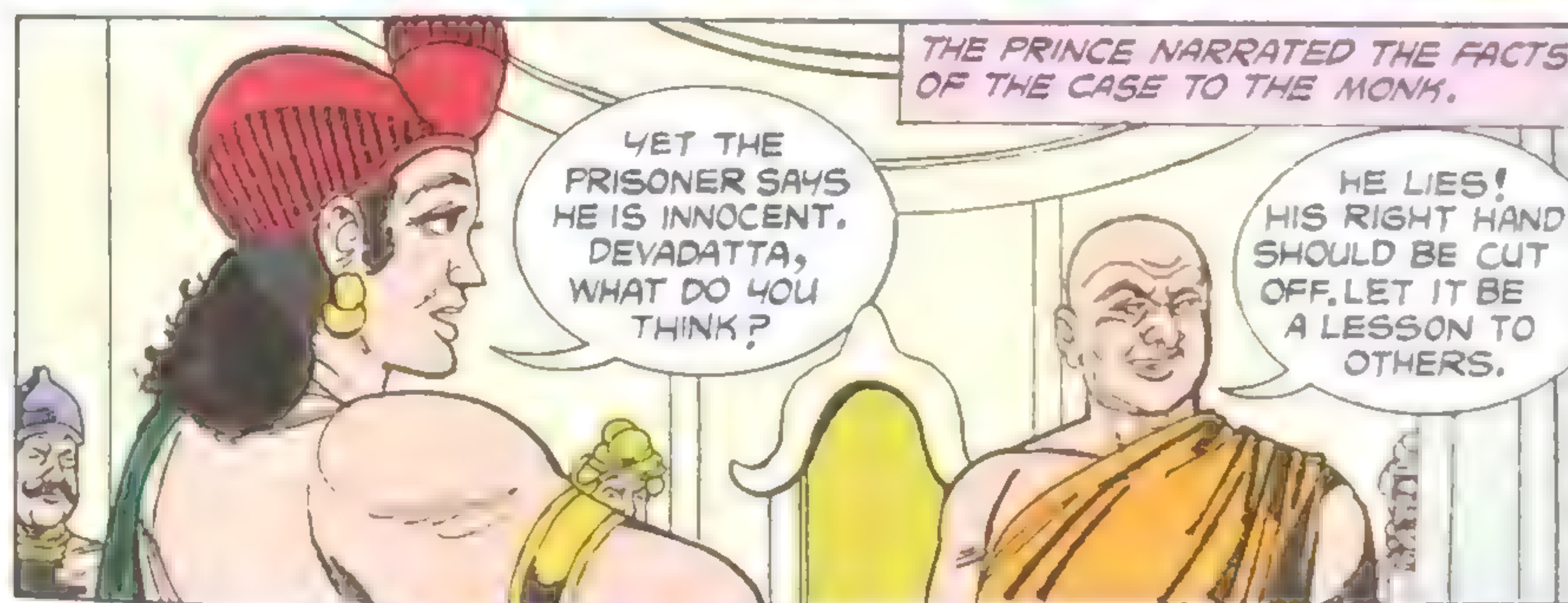
WHEN DEVADATTA REACHED THE COURT OF AJATASHATRU, THE PRINCE WAS TRYING A CASE.



THE PRINCE NARRATED THE FACTS OF THE CASE TO THE MONK.

YET THE PRISONER SAYS HE IS INNOCENT. DEVADATTA, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HE LIES! HIS RIGHT HAND SHOULD BE CUT OFF. LET IT BE A LESSON TO OTHERS.



YOU ARE SHREWD IN UNDERSTANDING MEN'S MINDS, DEVADATTA! YOU COULD BE OF GREAT HELP TO ME!

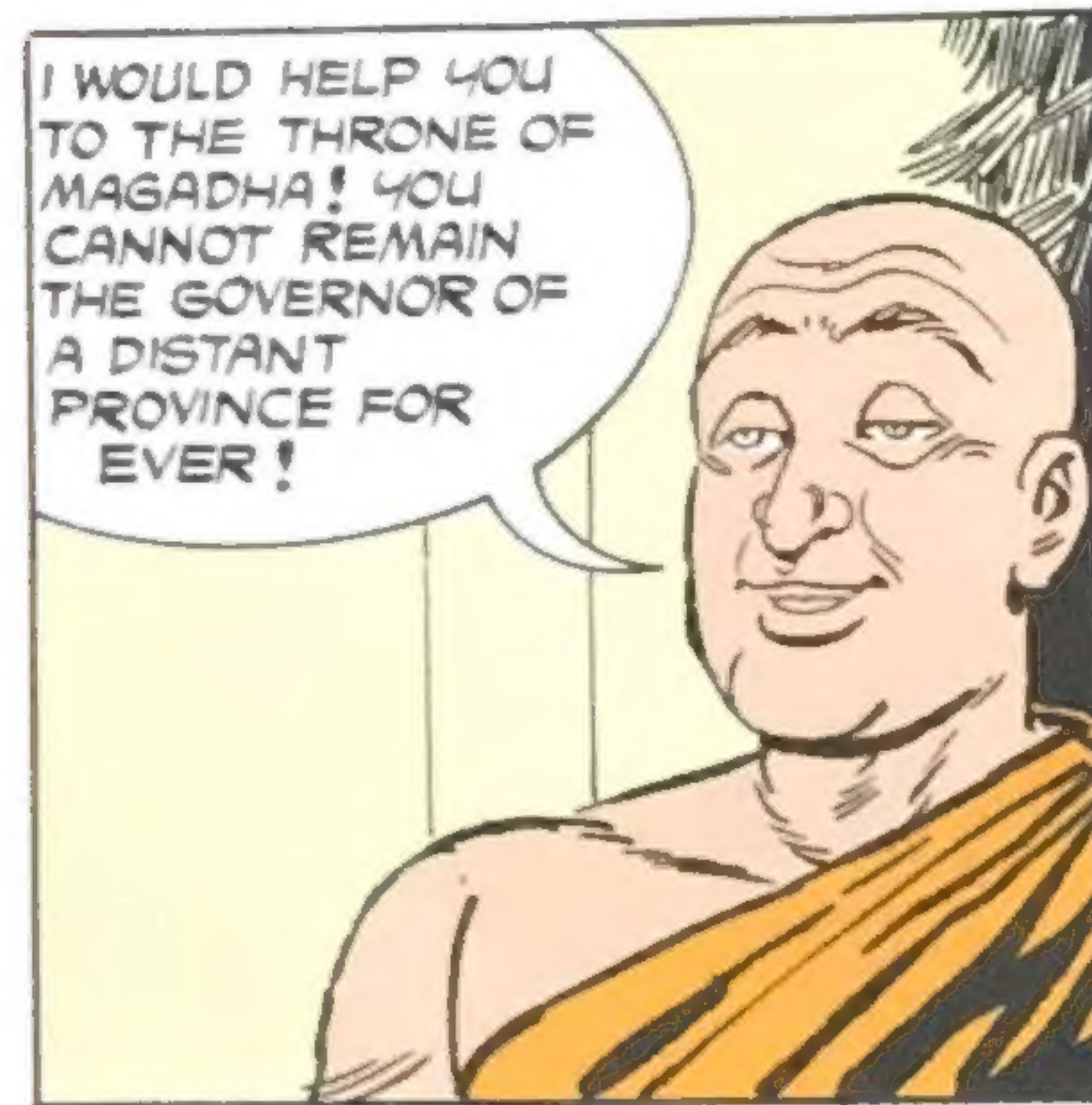


A FEW MONTHS LATER—

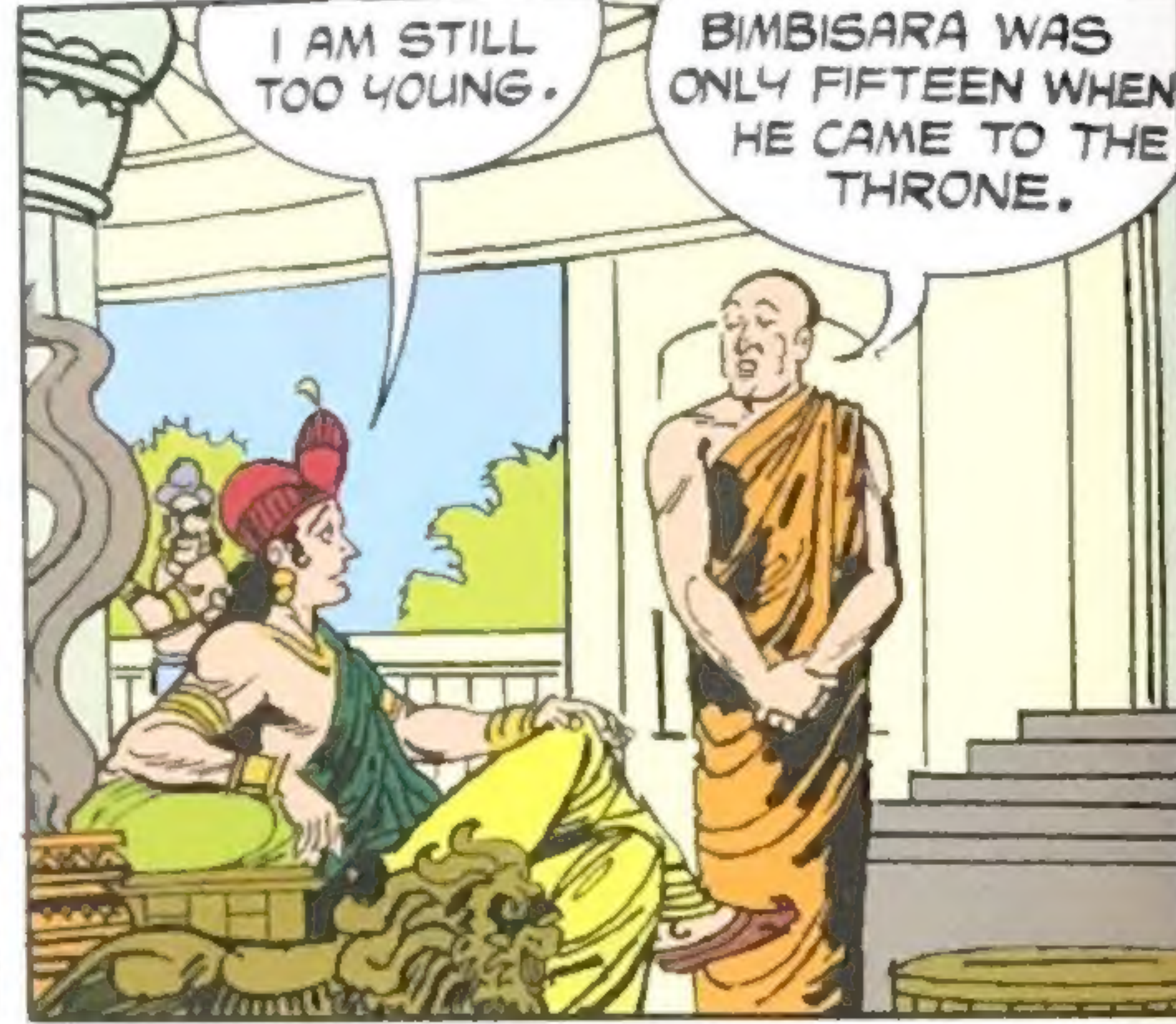
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOU, DEVADATTA! YOU ARE SUCH A HELP TO ME!

I COULD BE OF EVEN GREATER HELP.





I WOULD HELP YOU TO THE THRONE OF MAGADHA! YOU CANNOT REMAIN THE GOVERNOR OF A DISTANT PROVINCE FOR EVER!



I AM STILL TOO YOUNG.

BIMBISARA WAS ONLY FIFTEEN WHEN HE CAME TO THE THRONE.

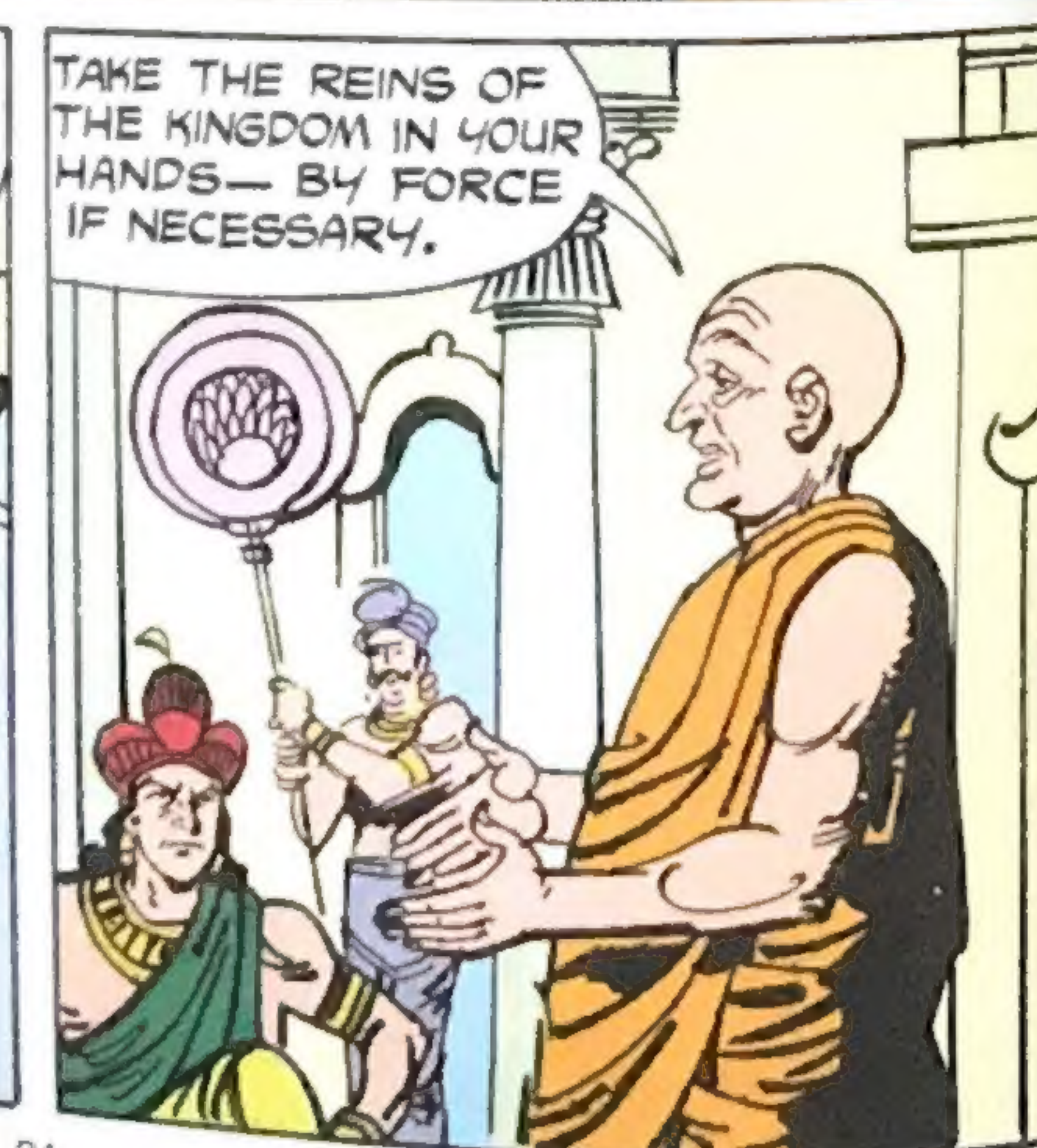


ALL IN GOOD TIME, DEVADATTA.

THE BEST TIME IS— NOW!



HOW LONG WILL YOU WAIT, AJATASHATRU? LIFE IS SHORT. ACT! ACT BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.



TAKE THE REINS OF THE KINGDOM IN YOUR HANDS— BY FORCE IF NECESSARY.



FORCE?

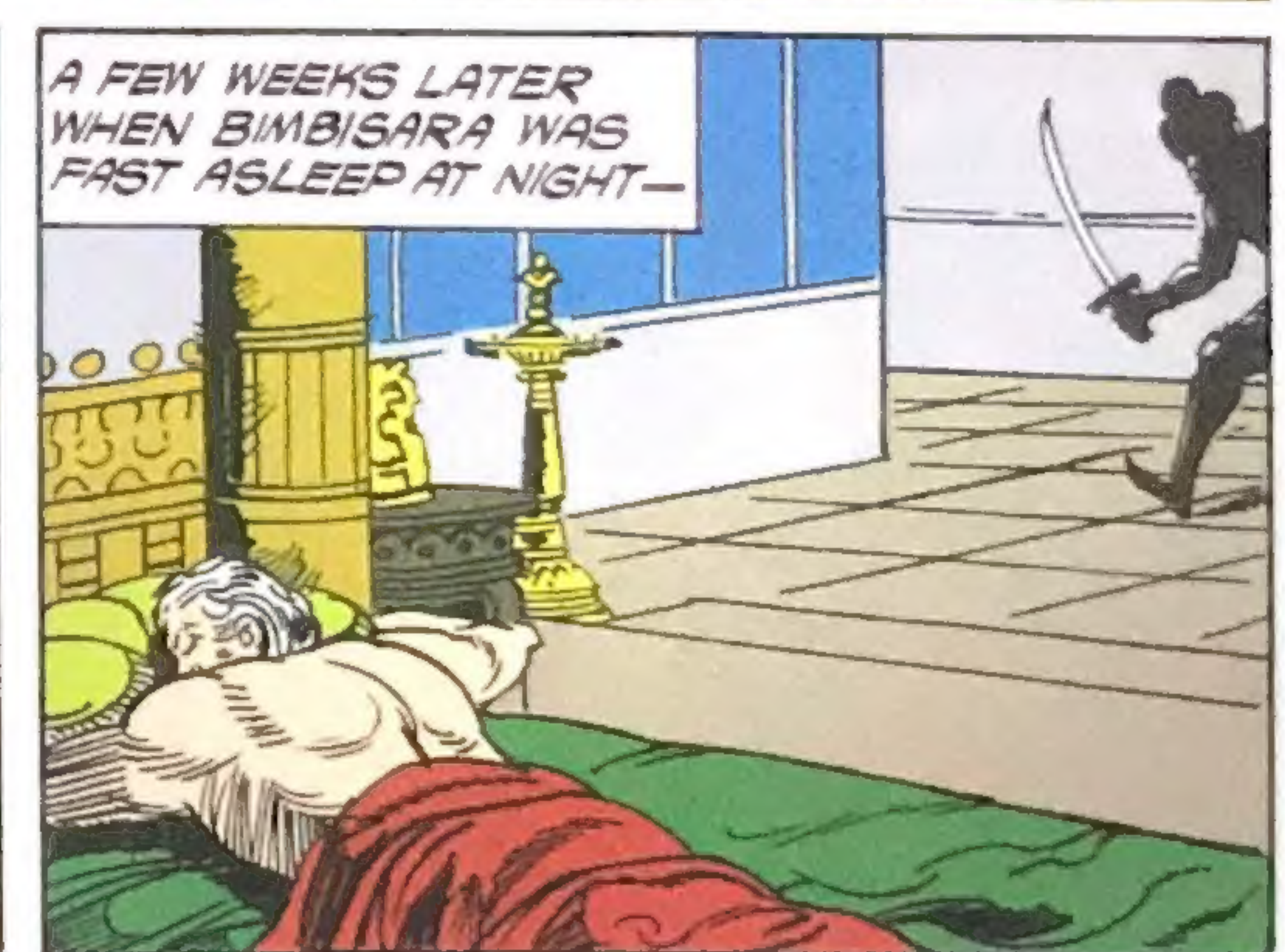


FORCE DID YOU SAY?

WHAT CAN I, A MONK, TEACH YOU ABOUT THE SOLDIER'S CRAFT?



AND DEVADATTA LEFT, SATISFIED. HE KNEW THAT HIS WORDS HAD FOUND THEIR MARK AT LAST.



A FEW WEEKS LATER WHEN BIMBISARA WAS FAST ASLEEP AT NIGHT—



BRING THE LIGHT.

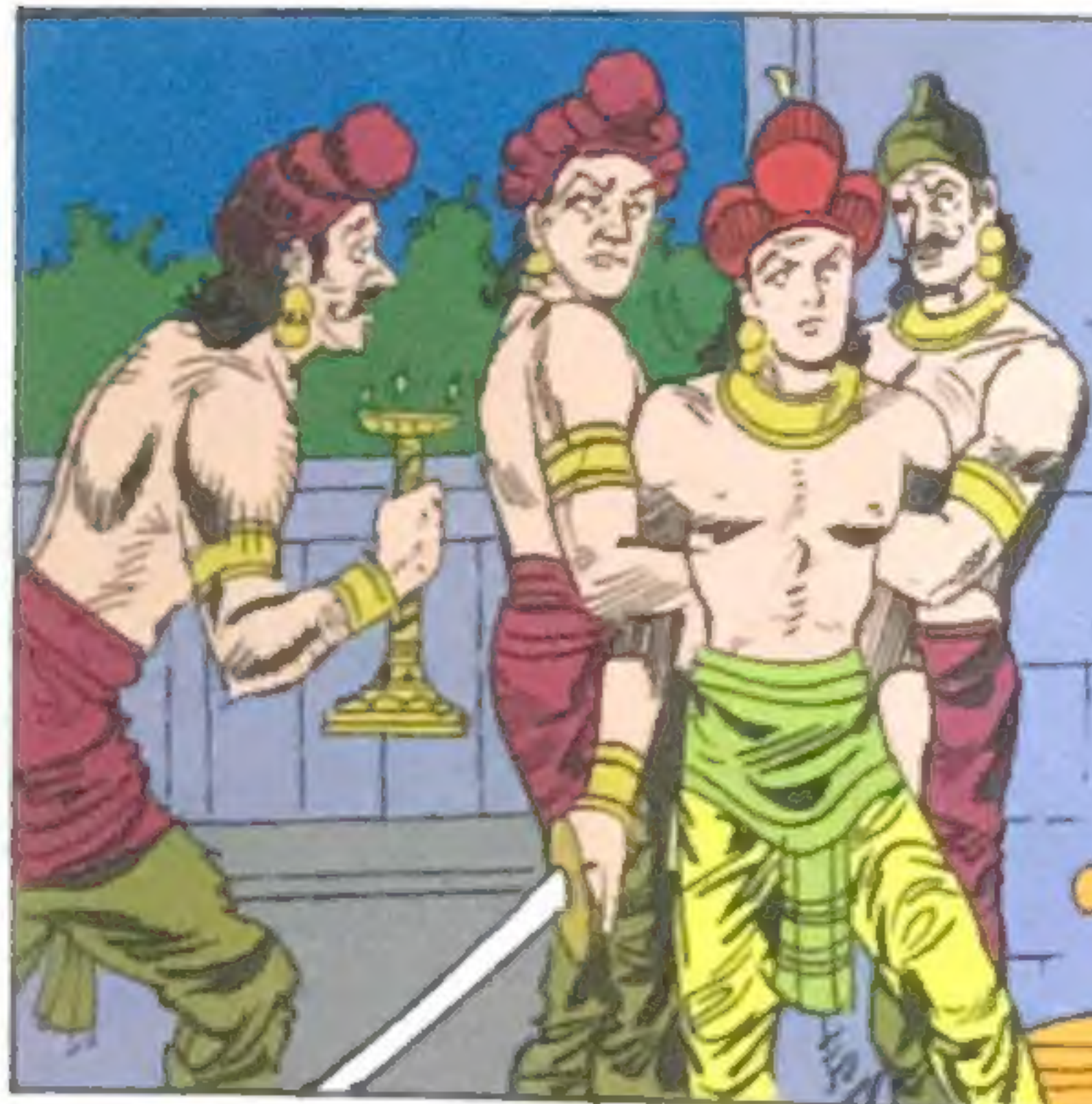
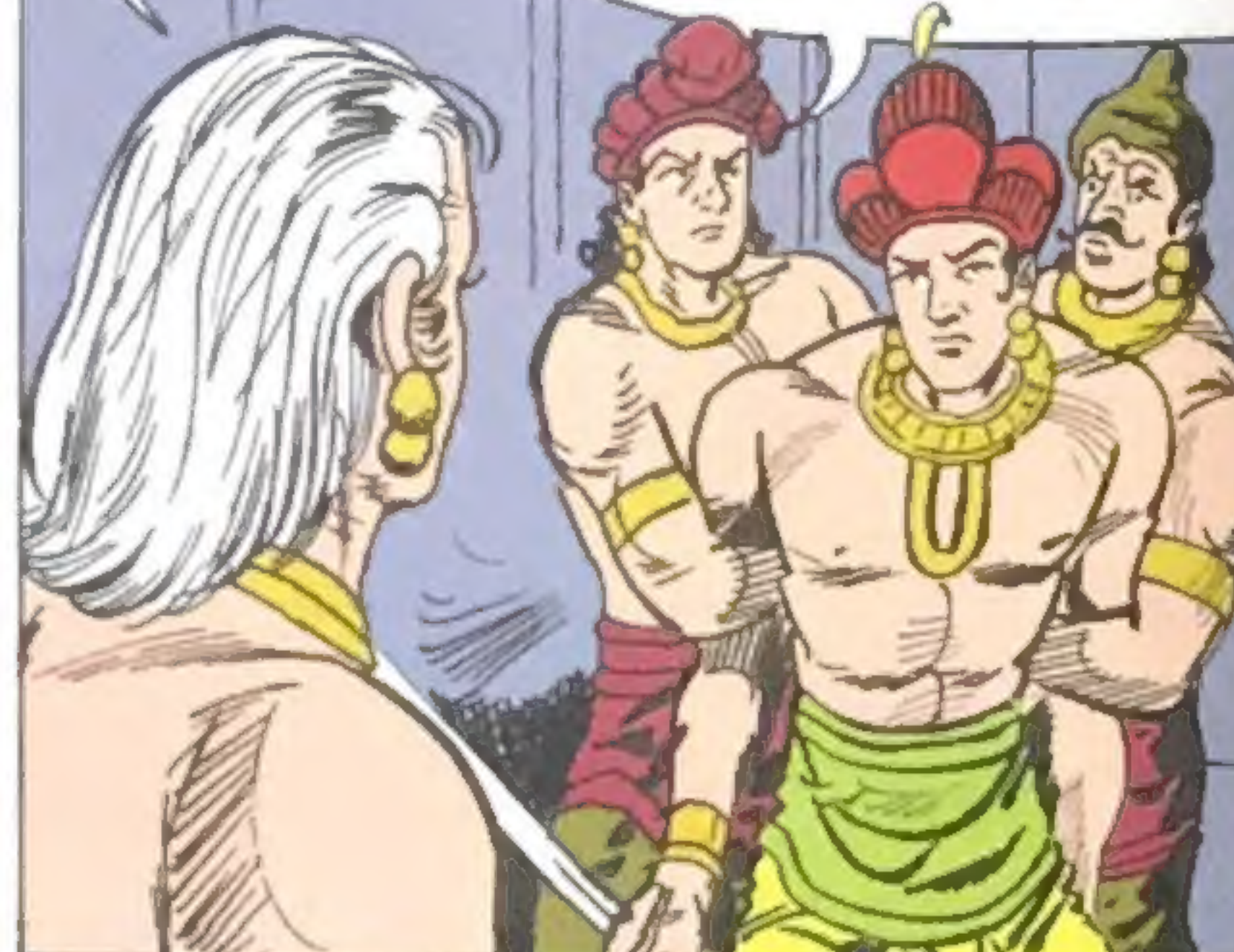
WHO ARE YOU? YOU SCOUNDREL!

THE KING WOKE UP AND SAW THE MAN WHO HAD COME TO KILL HIM.



RELEASE THE PRINCE.

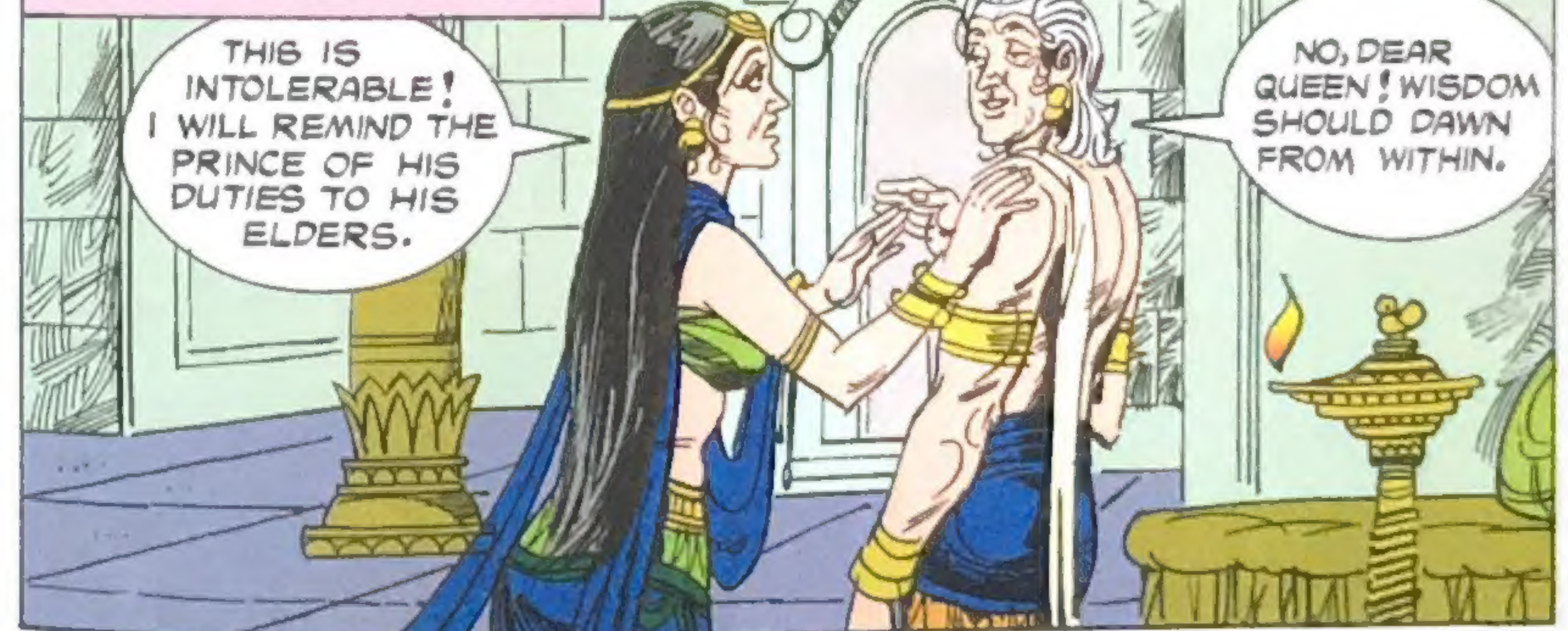
SIR, THE PRINCE IS GUILTY OF A HEINOUS CRIME! HE DESERVES THE MOST SEVERE PUNISHMENT!



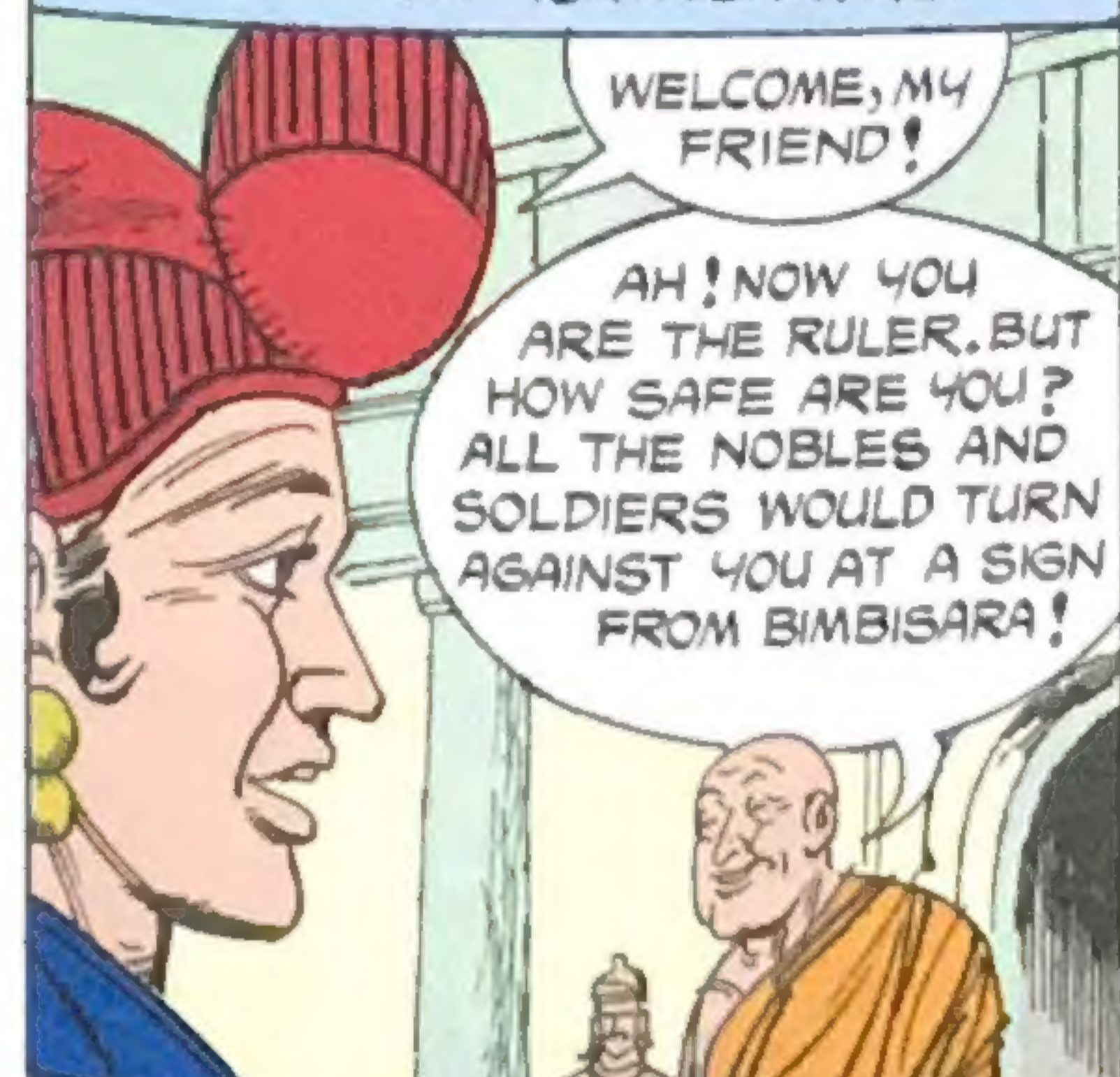
MISTAKING HIS FATHER'S LOVE FOR COWARDICE, AJATASHATRU PROCLAIMED THAT THE EMPEROR WAS AILING AND RULED IN HIS PLACE.



BUT IN FACT BIMBISARA WAS CONFINED TO HIS CHAMBER.

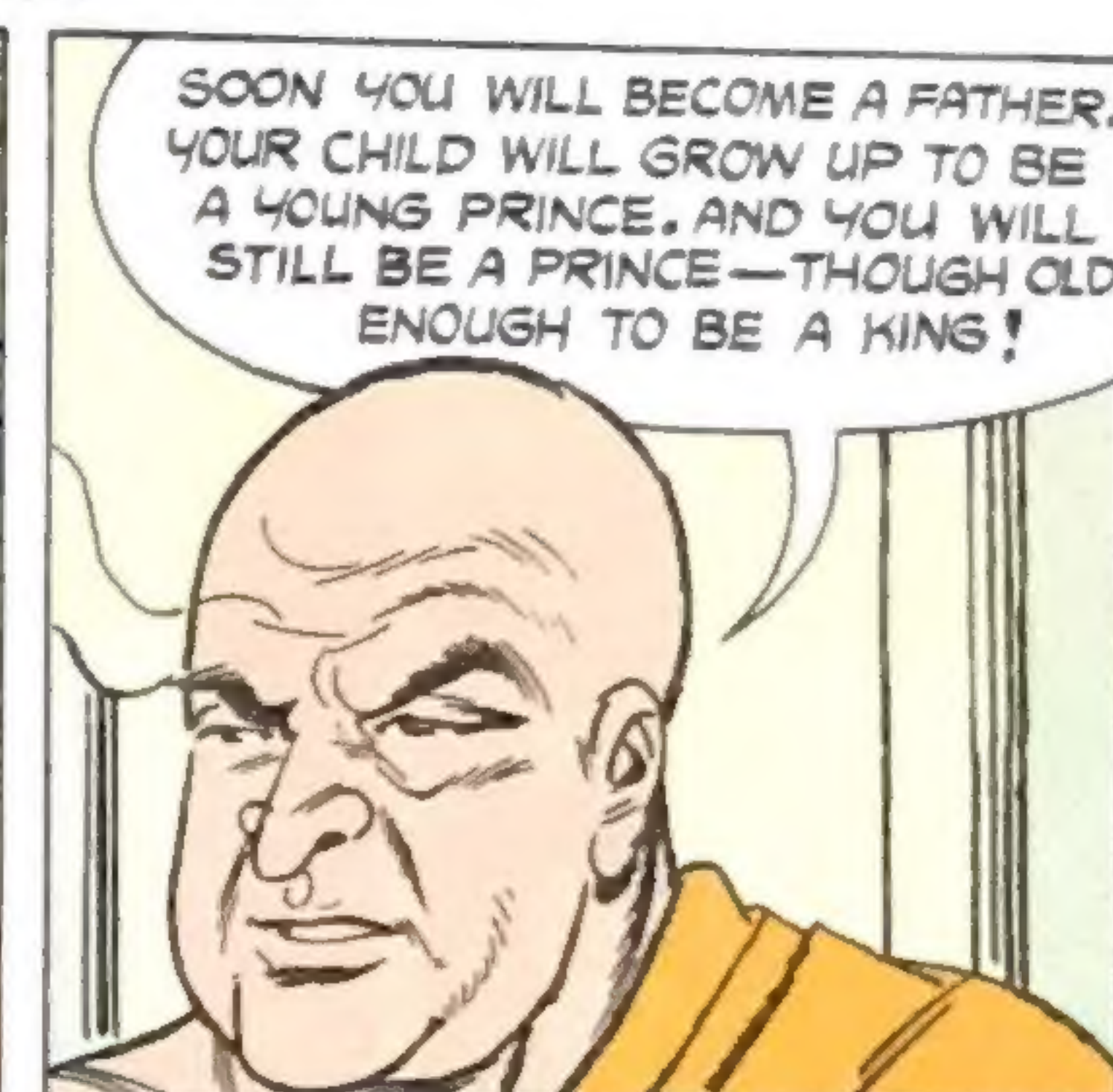
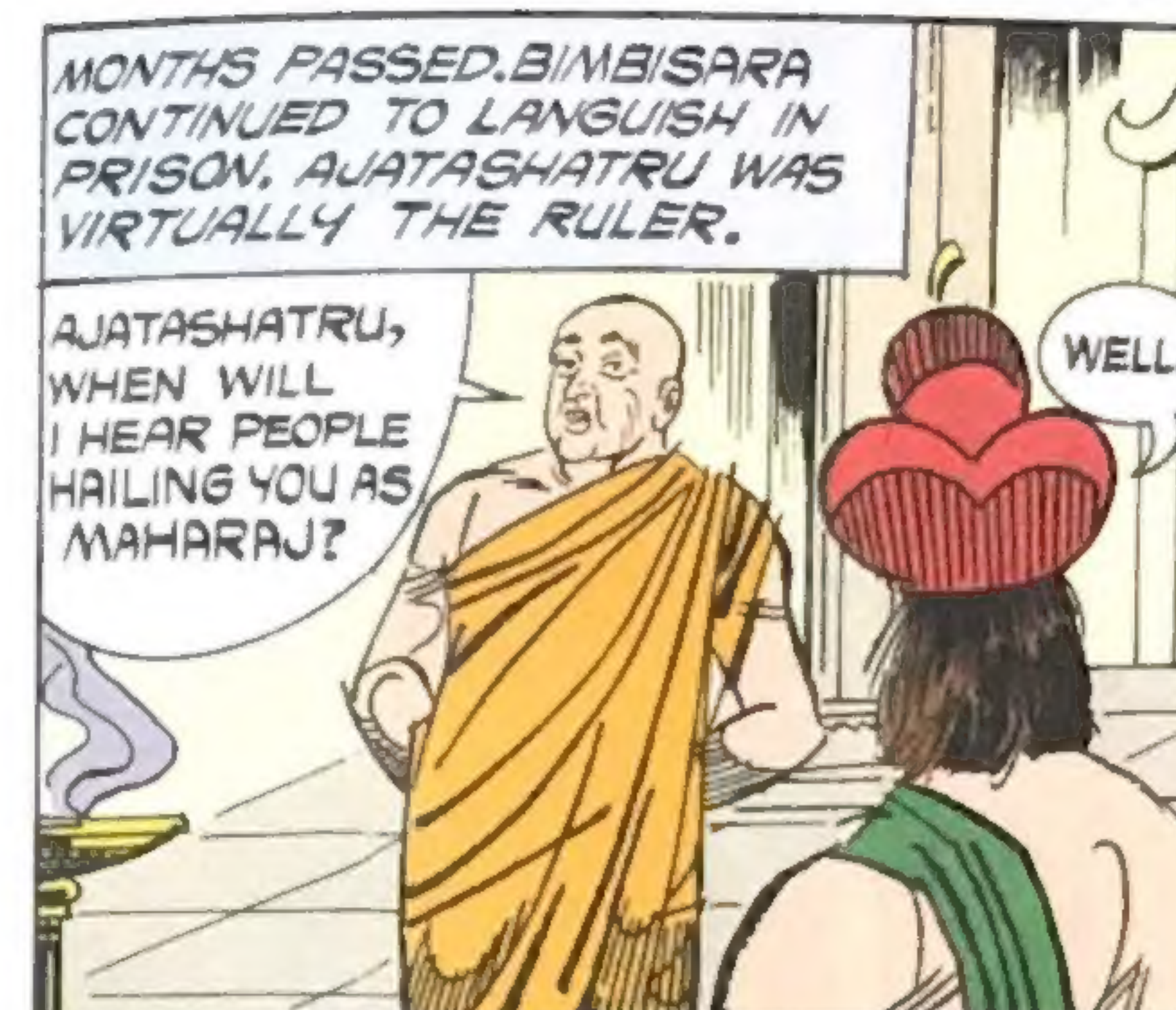
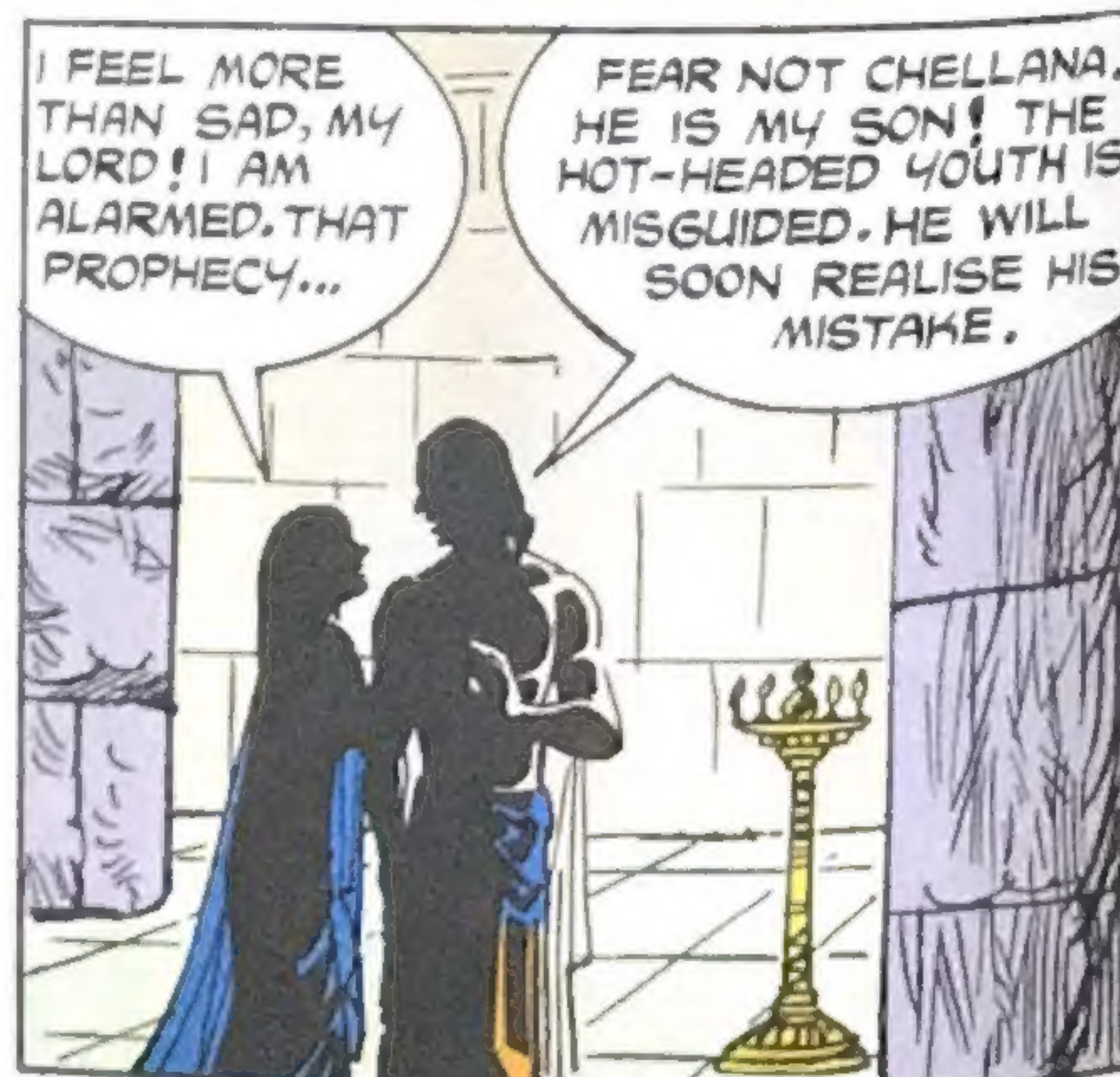
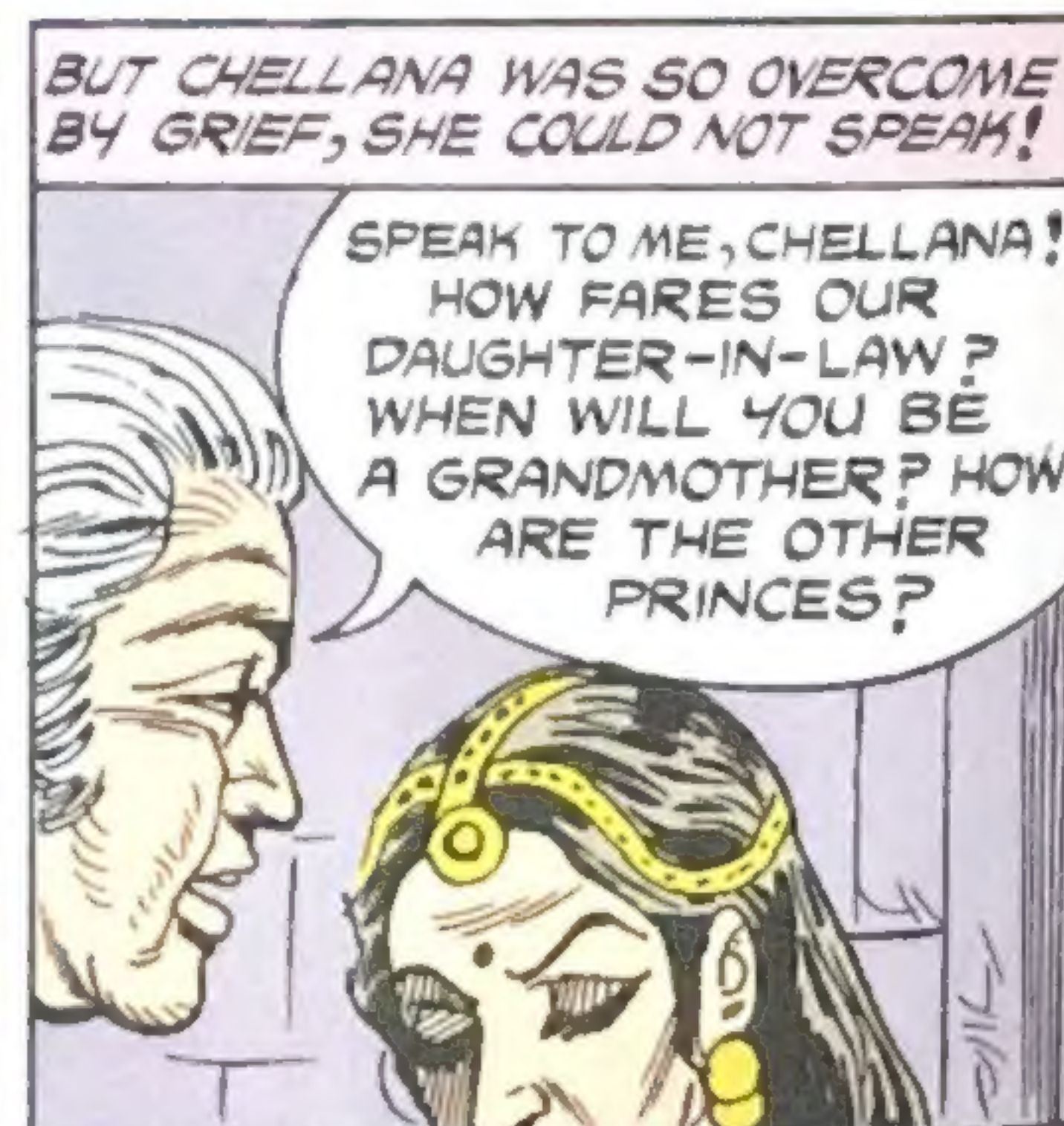


DEVADATTA CONTINUED TO WIELD HIS INFLUENCE ON AJATASHATRU.



TO SAFEGUARD HIS POSITION, AJATASHATRU REMOVED BIMBISARA TO A PRISON CELL.







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